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Chandigarh

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Ray's-Simla

High printing copy

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates.

6th March 1950

VOL. I No. 1.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

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Ray's-Simla

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 6th March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 11 a.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

(Thakur Pancham Chand was called to take the oath)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir... .

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has not yet taken the oath and unless he does so, he cannot raise any point of order or make any speech. He cannot take his seat for participation in the proceedings of the House before taking the oath.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to draw your attention to the notice which was sent to the members. It says—

In exercise of the powers conferred on him by Art. 174 of the Constitution of India, His Excellency the Governor of Punjab is pleased to summon the Punjab Legislative Assembly to meet at the Assembly Chamber....

There can be two alternatives, either we are meeting here as Members of the House or we are not. If we are meeting as Members of the House, I am perfectly within my rights to raise a point of order. My submission is that since it is a House duly constituted

Mr. Speaker : I would invite the hon. Member's attention to Art. 174 of the Constitution which lays down.—

Every member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation . .

that a member cannot take his seat unless he has taken the oath, and shall not move any motion or raise any point of order.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : If you kindly refer to Art. 174

under which this House has been summoned to meet, you will see that taking of oath is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. Member for having drawn my attention to that. I rule that oath taking is necessary before transacting any other business of the House. If the hon. Member wants to raise any point of order, he must first take the oath.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE THEN SWORN IN

Thakur Pancham Chand—Kangra North (General, Rural.

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava—University.

The Hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad—Ambala and Simla (General).
Rural (Reserved Seat).

The Hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi—Ex-Member, West Punjab
Assembly representing North-
Western Towns, (General),
Urban.

The Hon. Sardar Narotam Singh—South-East Punjab (Sikh), Rural.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly repre-
senting Lahore City (General) Urban.

Captain Ranjit Singh—Hissar South (General), Rural.

Sardar Partap Singh—Amritsar South, (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly
representing Gujranwala and
Shahdara (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail—Amritsar North (Sikh), Rural

Sardar Swaran Singh—Jullundur West (Sikh), Rural.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly
representing South-East Multan division
(General), Rural.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt—Ex-Member, West Punjab
Assembly representing North-
Eastern Towns (General)
Urban.

The Speaker was Sworn in earlier by H. E. the Governor.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth—Amritsar City (General), Urban.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann—Jullundur Division, Landholders.

Shri Virendra—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Multan Division (General), Rural.

Seth Sudarshan—Eastern Towns (General), Urban.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal—Hansi (General), Rural.

Shrimati Sita Devi—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City (General) (Women), Urban.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur—Amritsar (Sikh), (Woman).

Chaudhri Kartar Singh—Hoshiarpur West (General), Rural.

Sardar Kabul Singh—Jullundur East (Sikh), Rural.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma—Kangra West (General), Rural.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East (Sikh), Rural.

Professor Sher Singh—Jhajjar (General), Rural.

Thakur Beli Ram—Kangra East (General), Rural.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang (General), Rural.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish—Ambala Division, Landholders.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh—Ferozepore West (Sikh), Rural.

Chaudhri Jagdish Chander—Karnal North (General), Rural.

Sardar Ajit Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing South-West Punjab (Sikh), Rural.

Chaudhri Matu Ram—Ludhiana and Ferozepore (General), Rural (Reserved seat).

Chaudhri Harbhaj Ram—Ex Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang (General), Rural (Reserved seat).

Pandit Faqir Chand—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division (General), Rural.

[**The Hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa**—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Sialkot (Sikh), Rural.]

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh—Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Indar Singh—Eastern Towns (Sikh), Urban.

Sardar Kehr Singh—Jagraon (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Waryam Singh—Batala (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Udham Singh Nagoke—Amritsar Central (Sikh), Rural.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal—South-Eastern Towns (General),
Urban.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha—Jullundur (General), Rural.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly
representing Amritsar and Sialkot
(General), Rural (Reserved Seat).

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar—Non-Union Labour.

Shri Prabodh Chandra—Gurdaspur (General), Rural.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal—Amritsar (General), Rural.

Shri Bhagwan Das—East Punjab Commerce and Industry.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram—Hissar North, (General), Rural.

Sardar Rattan Singh Gill—Ferozepore East (Sikh) Rural.

Chaudhri Samar Singh—Karnal South (General), Rural.

Bhagat Buja Ram—Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States.

Thakur Dalip Singh—Kangra South (General), Rural.

Chaudhri Prem Singh—South-East Gurgaon (General), Rural
(Reserved Seat).

Chaudhri Mehr Chand—Hoshiarpur-West (General), Rural (Reserved
Seat).

Master Gurbanta Singh—Jullundur (General), Rural (Reserved
Seat).

Pandit Jiwan Lal—South-West Gurgaon (General), Rural.

Mahant Prem Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly repre-
senting Gujrat and Shahpur (Sikh), Rural.

Jathedar Man Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly repre-
senting Sheikhupura West (Sikh), Rural.

Sant Narindar Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly repre-
senting Montgomery East (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Bachan Singh—Ludhiana Central (Sikh), Rural.

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Sardar Sajjan Singh- Patti (Sikh), Rural.

Mehta Ranbir Singh—Ludhiana and Ferozepore (General), Rural.

The following members were Sworn in by the Speaker in his room :

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing North-West Punjab (Sikh), Rural.

Seth Ganga Saran—Trade Union labour

Sardar Piara Singh—Hoshiarpur South (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Shiv Singh—Gurdaspur North (Sikh), Rural.

(Sardar Kartar Singh—Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West (Sikh) Rural.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh—Rohtak North (General), Rural.

Rao Mohar Singh—North-West Gurgaon (General), Rural.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram—Rohtak Central (General), Rural.

Sardar Sarmukh Singh—Ambala North (Sikh), Rural.

Sardar Tara Singh—Ferozepore South (Sikh), Rural.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma—Southern Towns [General], Urban.

Chaudhri Sundar Lal—Karnal North General], Rural [Reserved Seat].

PROCEDURE RE.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

Mr. Speaker : As the honourable Members are aware, His Excellency the Governor is addressing the Assembly at 3 p.m. today and members are expected to be in their seats ten minutes earlier. Tomorrow and the day after the Assembly will have a discussion on that address. The procedure would be that a Member from the Government side will move a vote of thanks to the Governor and another Member will second that motion. Members will have a right to move amendments to that motion and notices of those amendments should be given to the Assembly office before 2 p.m. tomorrow,

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th March 1950.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Governor arrived in procession with the officers of the Assembly and his personal staff at 3 p.m. and took his seat on the Throne in the Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor : Members of the Legislative Assembly, may I, at the outset, greet you all most cordially and say how much I

welcome this opportunity—my first one—of addresssing this House. This is also the first time we are in session after the inauguration of the Sovereign Democra^tic Republic of India. I say “we” and not “you”, since the Legislature consists *inter alia* of the Governor.

I have had the privilege of being associated with the Punjab State right from the beginning, and have shared with my Government and my fellow-citizens trials and troubles of unparalleled magnitude which faced us on the partition of the country. The few months after the 15th August, 1947, were full of great anxiety and intense strain to us all, and looking back after a lapse of two-and-a-half years it is a matter of gratification to my Government and to me personally that not only were we able to turn the corner in less than two months, but we also succeeded in restoring normal conditions very shortly afterwards. For this we are greatly indebted to our people who co-operated with us whole-heartedly under very difficult and adverse conditions, and also to our gallant Indian Army and our devoted permanent Services, Police and Executive, who bore the brunt of the burden.

To-day the law and order position in our State may be described as satisfactory. The Police is up to its normal strength, and its morale, particularly of the Provincial Armed Police, which in conjunction with the Indian Army is protecting our border, stands high. All known gangs of dacoits have been liquidated, and serious crime in 1949 was substantially less than in 1948. It has been the constant endeavour of my Government progressively to improve standards of training, discipline and conduct in the Police, so that our State may have a force second to none in India. Relations between the Police and the public are also being adjusted satisfactorily in the context of new conditions, and my Government looks forward to an increasing measure of co-operation on the part of all our citizens with the Police in their vital tasks of the maintenance of peace and tranquillity and the safeguarding of life and property. This is all the more necessary, as existing circumstances demand that we must be constantly on our guard against subversive or lawless elements in the State, whose aim, we know, is to exploit discontent due to conditions, economic and other, and thereby to produce confusion and chaos mainly by resorting to violence and intimidation. It has been

and will continue to be the aim of my Government to deal with and remedy, as far as they can, conditions which give rise to genuine and legitimate discontent. At the same time, it is my Government's determination not to allow anti-social elements of any kind to disrupt public order and security, and I know that in this my Government is assured of the full support of this House and also of all law-abiding citizens.

Relief and rehabilitation of our fellow-citizens who had perforce to evacuate from West-Pakistan, have been the major pre-occupation of my Government ever since our State came into existence. Numbers in relief camps now total a little over a lakh, and since October last free rations have been restricted primarily to unattached women and children and the aged and the infirm. For those who will eventually stay on in camps—and their number may be about 80,000—we are constructing mud huts. For those of the poor displaced persons who are living in the congested slum areas of towns, a cheap housing scheme is being worked out. For providing opportunities for gainful employment to the residents in camps, a scheme of establishing Work Centres is under execution, and already about one thousand persons are working in these Centres. The remainder are at present eking out a livelihood in a fashion, and my Government expect that the vast bulk of them will be absorbed in the economy of the State when quasi-permanent allotment of land is complete, when all the Work Centres are on the ground, and also when industrial townships to which I shall refer later, come into being.

As regards rural rehabilitation, quasi-permanent allotment of land is within sight of finishing. Honourable Members are aware that for this purpose our State and the Patiala and East Punjab States Union form one unit. Up to the 28th of February, 1950, allotment orders had been issued in respect of 74.3 per cent of evacuee land in the Punjab. The corresponding percentage for PEPSU was 40.2 and the combined percentage for the Punjab and PEPSU was 68. I have just obtained the latest figures which are up to the 3rd March. Allotment orders have been issued in respect of 76.5 per cent of land in the Punjab and 45.7 per cent in PEPSU. The combined percentage is 71.2. It will be seen that we are making rapid progress. It is our anticipation that all allotment orders

will have been issued by the end of this month, if not a little earlier.

i very of possession to new allottees, census and allotment of evacuee houses in rural areas, allotment of evacuee gardens and leasing of agricultural land within urban limits are likely to be completed before the middle of June, if not even earlier, in respect of some of these items. With the completion of this phase, about 25 lakhs of persons will have been rehabilitated on land. Work in connection with the allotment of land is, as the House is aware, extremely complicated. Such mistakes as have occurred have mostly been unavoidable, and, on the whole, this may well be regarded as an achievement with which all of us, whether the Government or the people, will have reason to be generally satisfied. My Government is well aware of the shortage of houses for our displaced persons in rural areas, and will help them in making it good within the limits of its resources. The work of consolidation of holdings in evacuee areas, the review and revision of allotment orders on applications by aggrieved persons, and the preparation of rehabilitation records will be taken in hand soon after delivery of possession, and will be finished without any avoidable delay. The peasantry which has had to come over to us from West Pakistan is, perhaps, the finest in India. I need hardly say that they will make the very best use of the land, and if Indra, the god of rain, favours us with good monsoons during the next two years, our displaced peasantry will once again be fully on their feet. We have given them generous financial assistance during the last two years, the amount advanced as loan being Rs. 2,30 lakhs. In the current financial year about Rs. 85 lakhs would be disbursed as taccavi. Adequate provision has also been made for this purpose in 1950-51. I would here like to mention two interesting features of rural resettlement. One is the setting up of 26 garden colonies, for which about 20,000 acres of land spread all over the State have been reserved. This land has been allotted to about one thousand persons, who will form Co-operative Societies, and to whom it is proposed to advance loans for the development of garden colonies. Another feature is the reservation of 51 villages with an area of about 28,000 standard acres for the settlement of military personnel. My Government is very glad that this has been possible. The Punjab has been the sword-arm of India, and may she always continue to

be so !

The rehabilitation of urban displaced persons has been full of difficulties. Houses, shops and factories left by Muslims in the Punjab have been fewer and immeasurably inferior to those left by our people in West Pakistan. The Muslims in urban areas were mostly technicians, artisans and labourers whereas our people are traders and shopkeepers, and also industrialists. We have allotted all the houses, shops and factories. There are not, however, enough of them to go round, and it has been our endeavour to supplement this deficiency as best as we can. I refer here to the construction of twelve model townships to form adjuncts of flourishing towns, which has practically been completed, and to the laying out of 6,800 building sites in these townships. These two schemes have so far cost us about Rs. 3 crores. I refer also to the scheme for industrial areas, which aims at providing sites for one thousand factories with a labour potential of 40,000. There are eight such industrial areas, out of which six have already been laid out, and in which about 850 sites have been sold. The Vocational Training Centres, run both by our Department of Industries and the Directorate of Resettlement and Employment, have already provided training in crafts and vocations to a large number of displaced persons. In addition, liberal financial assistance has been given for facilitating rehabilitation in small business, industry and professions. The amount advanced so far is a little over Rs. 1,39 lakhs as loans and Rs. 18 lakhs as grants. Again, loans of a little over Rs. 17 lakhs have been given to over 450 Co-operative Societies consisting of displaced urban persons. For meeting the requirements of our bigger businessmen and industrialists, the Rehabilitation Finance Administration set up by the Government of India has so far advanced Rs. 79 lakhs as loans. Moreover, at the request of my Government that Administration has recently decided to give preference in the grant of loans to those purchasers of industrial sites in industrial areas whose applications will be sponsored by our Government. Loans to displaced students amount to Rs. 24 lakhs and grants to them to Rs. 37 lakhs. In fine, my Government claims that it has done its best in regard to urban rehabilitation within the available resources. It is conscious, however, of the fact that urban displaced persons are not fully satisfied, and are

at times bitter. This lack of satisfaction and even this bitterness are understandable, and are mainly due to the fact that a scheme for compensation for the urban property they have left behind has not yet been evolved. This is one of the subjects which is in issue between India and Pakistan, and all I can say is that both my Government and the Government of India have availed themselves of every opportunity of urging its vital importance. A preliminary step, which has been undertaken, is the promulgation by the Centre of the Displaced Persons (Claims) Ordinance of 1950, under which machinery will be set up shortly for inviting and verifying the claims of our displaced persons owning urban property.

The task of rehabilitation, both rural and urban, has been stupendous, and whatever measure of success we have so far achieved is due very largely to our displaced fellow-citizens who have throughout this very trying period shown courage, fortitude, self-respect and resilience of a very high order. No tribute which we can pay to them could be too great. My Government owes it to them to continue to do its very best fully to complete their rehabilitation, and is determined to discharge its obligation in this matter in the fullest possible measure.

My Government is dealing with the problem of increased food production on a top priority basis. The salient facts in this regard are well known to the House. In a normal year our deficit in wheat amounts to 1,12,000 tons. On the other hand, we are surplus in gram, with the result that in a normal year our overall deficit in foodgrains is of the order of 38,000 tons. The task before us is not merely one of wiping off the comparatively small overall deficit, but of bridging the gap between production and requirements of wheat to the extent of 1,12,000 tons. The gap has to be bridged very largely by increase in the production of wheat. We launched several schemes to this end during 1949-50 at a cost of Rs. 1.70 lakhs, while for the coming year we have asked the Government of India for funds amounting to Rs. 1.86 lakhs. Our schemes comprise reclamation of waste land and its follow-up cultivation by tractors, the passing of additional supplies of water in our existing irrigation channels by raising their banks, the digging of new channels,

the taking over by the Irrigation Department of canals like the Shah Nehr and the Grey Canals, the sinking of tubewells and percolation wells, conservation and composting of manure, use of pure seed, eradication of pests and the destruction of wild animals. Already we have achieved good results, and my Government will continue to concentrate its attention on increasing the production of food, so that self-sufficiency is achieved by the end of 1951, if not even earlier. The key to this is our farmer. He is our base and our foundation; him we must reach, and that too most effectively; to him we must go constantly; him we must teach; him we must guide; him we must tell what to do and what not to do, how to do and how not to do. Slogans here will not help us; mere words will be of no avail; our advice to him must be such as he can adopt on his land with his resources, supplemented by aid from us. My Government is, therefore, always thinking of every possible avenue of reaching him and enlisting his whole-hearted co-operation in this vital and urgent task. We have already formed village, tehsil and district food production committees, and have made the Deputy Commissioner responsible for the success of the Grow-More-Food campaign and consequentially for the co-ordination of all effort, official and otherwise, in this behalf. Side by side with increased food production, avoidance of waste of food in any shape or form is essential, and my Government commends, at least, to the non-vegetarian sections of our people, the Miss-a-Meal Movement, which has not only a practical but a psychological value.

Our procurement, both of wheat and rice, has been excellent this year. We have obtained up to date 217,000 tons of wheat and about 50,000 tons of rice against our target of 172,000 tons and 20,000 tons respectively. In fact, we shall be able to export 20,000 tons of rice. This increased procurement, particularly of wheat, is most welcome, as it will enable us to carry over a reserve of about 80,000 to 90,000 tons of wheat, which will stand us in good stead.

The future of our State rests a good deal on the Bhakra and Nangal Project, which, when completed, will revolutionise the agricultural and industrial economy of our State and rank as the second largest Hydro-Electric System in the world. Progress on this Project has generally

been satisfactory. A sum of Rs. 7.5 crores has been promised definitely by the Government of India for this Project during the financial year 1950-51. My Government had pressed the Government of India to allot a much larger sum for this Project in the coming year, but having regard to their financial resources this has not been found possible just at the moment. We have been informed, however, that the position will in all probability be reviewed after a few months, and also that the Prime Minister of India is anxious that no important work connected with the Project should be delayed or stopped. My Government will continue to press the Government of India for additional funds, and is certain that they will accommodate our State in this matter to the greatest possible extent. Certain other matters connected with the Project are under consideration in consultation with the Government of India. The first is the question of the agency of construction of the Bhakra Dam; second is the distribution of supplies of water between our State, PEPSU and Bikaner; and third is the draft agreement with Bilaspur in whose territory lies the site of the Dam. My Government is taking all possible steps for an early settlement of these matters.

As the House is aware, my Government has taken a decision to go ahead with its plans for a new Capital at Chandigarh. The decision to locate the Capital at this place was reached about two years ago in consultation with the Government of India after a most exhaustive examination of all possible sites. We expect to receive from the Government of India a loan of Rs. 1 crore per annum for this purpose for the next three years. My Government proposes, after the completion of the Master Plan which has been entrusted to Mr. Albert Mayer, a well-known American Town Planner, to call advance instalment payments from intending purchasers of residential and commercial sites in the Capital, and with the finances thus made available, to proceed with the Project. My Government will provide alternative land to the agriculturists whose lands are acquired for the Capital.

It is an axiom of administration that the permanent Services are the instrument of Government for executing its policies, and to the extent that public servants of all grades are not efficient, disciplined,

impartial, honest, contented and progressive, to that extent the implementation of policies will be defective. My Government, therefore, regards the progressive improvement of the administrative machinery of the State as one of its important tasks, and I would like here to give it as my personal opinion based on knowledge that our administration is improving steadily. There is, of course, much to be done. A few of our departments are not yet fully organised or adequately manned for the tasks they are called upon to undertake. Corruption is still prevalent though it is the considered opinion of my Government that it has been brought under a great measure of control. Discipline is still not as strict as it should be, and there is obviously considerable scope for increasing efficiency and reducing delays. The improvement in the general tone and spirit of administration cannot be achieved by any spectacular step. This is a task which has to be done day in and day out with patience, firmness and tact, and my Government is doing this. It is not, however, Government alone which can make the Services fully perfect; the public in general and you, their representatives, can do a great deal to assist Government in this sphere. My Government is confident that this help, which can be rendered in various ways, will be forthcoming without stint. A great deal of strain has been placed on all our Services, particularly those of the higher grades during the last two and a half years, and on behalf of my Government I take this opportunity of paying them a tribute for their unflinching loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty.

In this session you will be called upon to deal with the Budget for 1950-51, and Legislative business. I do not wish to anticipate the Budget, but my Government trusts that the House will find it eminently satisfactory. Expenditure has had to be curtailed, and additional revenues have had to be raised. Beneficent departments have not been starved. In fact, increased provision has been made for several of them. The axe has fallen almost exclusively on departments which are in popular parlance not classed as "beneficent."

Members of the Assembly, the Legislative programme in front of you is fairly heavy. You will have at least 28 bills for your considera-

tion, and in this address I will only touch briefly upon the more important ones. The first of these styled "The Punjab Prevention of Black marketing Bill 1950" is designed to prevent black-marketing in the State. It contains a comprehensive definition of black-marketing, and provides for the imposition of deterrent punishment in addition to fine and forfeiture. It also contains a special provision for giving adequate publicity to convictions under the law. Legislation on somewhat similar lines has already been enacted in the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and my Government considers that it is high time that this anti-social practice, which is responsible for so much hardship to the public, was dealt with in the firmest and most effective manner. Next is the Gaon Panchayat Bill, prepared in the light of one of the Directive Principles of State Policy in our new Consitution, which enjoins the State to take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. The third relates to the abolition of Kuri Kamini, a somewhat irksome and outmoded village cess, which it is the custom for members of the proprietary body in certain districts to levy from non-proprietors, and which has been a source of friction. The fourth is the Restraint on Dowry Bill, a measure designed to mitigate an evil, about which social reformers have been agitating for decades. The fifth is a comprehensive Health Bill, which, if passed into law and also implemented, will greatly improve health and sanitation, particularly in rural areas. The sixth is the Co-operative Societies Bill, a measure which seeks to bring the Co-operative Law up to date and to remove the defects noticed in the working of the present Act. It is proposed to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion.

Members of the Assembly, I venture with your permission to end on a personal note. Our State is new, having come into being only two and a half years ago. Though we have achieved stability and made considerable progress, many difficult problems, some of which I have mentioned in my address, still confront us. We may also have to face dangers, whether arising within or outside our State. It is, therefore, incumbent on all of us to be more vigilant and work harder than before,

and also to maintain complete unity and perfect discipline. In this matter a heavy responsibility rests particularly on you my friends, the representatives of the people of our State. Let not pettiness or senseless strife or quarrels mar our activities. Let the highest sense of public duty permeate and guide all our actions, and let us all devote ourselves unitedly and whole-heartedly to the service of our State, specially bearing in mind the fundamental importance of promoting the welfare and happiness of the common citizen. It is for the common citizen that the Father of the Nation lived and laboured and it is for this that he led us to freedom.

JAI HIND.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

7th MARCH 1950

Vol. I—No. 2

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

First Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 7th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

SWEARING IN BY MEMBERS.

Shri Rattan Singh Tabib (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural)
was sworn in.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLERICAL STAFF IN THE EAST PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT

*1281. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the temporary Junior and Senior Clerks, Assistants, Head Assistants, Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents in each Branch of the East Punjab Civil Secretariat on 31-8-49 with service of :—

- (i) more than 7 years,
- (ii) more than 6 years,
- (iii) more than 5 years,
- (iv) more than 4 years,
- (v) more than 3 years ;

(b) whether the Government has under consideration any proposal for making these employees permanent ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) It is regretted that the amount of labour involved in the collection of this information will not be commensurate with the benefits that may accrue.

(Premier)

(b) The question of the confirmation of these employees is under consideration.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government have taken any steps to remove the difficulties of those temporary Government servants who have a service of more than seven years to their credit ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that the question of their confirmation is engaging the attention of the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister please tell us whether any minimum or maximum period has been laid down by which a temporary government servant could become permanent ?

Chief Minister : I think a probation period is laid down but I cannot say whether any maximum limit of this period has been fixed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Chief Minister aware that the Pay Commission appointed by the Government of India had made a recommendation that no Government servant should be allowed to remain on temporary basis for more than two years ? If so, what action does he propose to take in the matter in the light of that recommendation ?

Chief Minister : But so far we are concerned, no definite period is laid down after the expiry of which temporary government servants can secure confirmation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But what is the minimum period by which a temporary government servant's confirmation is possible ?

Chief Minister : At least two years.

FREE JOURNEY PASSES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS CLASS IV

***1282. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that when any Government servant of class IV obtains leave to go home in Kangra and other far off districts he has to bear railway and road journey expenses from his own pocket ;

- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative whether the Government proposes to introduce free journey passes for the Government servants of class IV, if not, the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) No. The acceptance of the proposal involves a heavy liability which the Government is not in a position to bear at the present moment.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether, if the Government is not in a position to issue free journey passes to class IV government servants, will it devise an alternative for mitigating their difficulties ?

Chief Minister : I see no reason why travelling expenses should be paid to a person who proceeds home on leave.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that the Railway Administration issues free journey passes to its employees ? If so, will he take steps to grant similar facilities to the class IV government servants ?

Chief Minister : I think this question should be addressed to the Government of India which is responsible for the Railway Administration and its employees. So far as this Government is concerned, it does not issue free journey passes to its employees.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

***1283. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the complaints received by the District Police Officers from the public in which charges of bribery and corruption were made against the police officers and other employees of the Police Department between 1-4-48 and 31-3-49 in each District ;
- (b) the number of such complaints inquired into in each district during the aforesaid period ;
- (c) the number of such complaints found baseless on enquiry ;

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- (d) the number of the cases in which complaints for failure to establish their cases were proceeded against under section 182 of the Indian Penal Code during the above mentioned period ;
- (e) the number of the cases which were proved ;
 - (i) the number of the police officers and constables who were found guilty and were awarded punishment ;
 - (ii) the nature of the punishment awarded in each case, and
 - (iii) the number of cases still pending enquiry ;
- (f) the number of the complaints filed in the Courts in each district during the aforesaid period against Police Officers and constables on the charges of bribery and corruption ; the number of cases dismissed ; the number of the cases which were established and the accused punished ; and the number of the cases still pending in courts ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The required information is given in the statement, a copy of which is laid on the table.*

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The statement indicates that out of 280 complaints 237 were found baseless and out of the rest, action was taken only against six cases. May I know why other cases have been left out and not proceeded with ?

Chief Minister : Government decided to take action against those cases which it deemed proper.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether there was not an iota of truth in all those 237 cases which were declared as baseless ?

Chief Minister : It is a question of opinion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government intends to take any steps to discourage people for putting in false complaints ?

Chief Minister : We can only appeal to the public to desist from lodging false complaints. The other method, of course, is that persons found guilty of making baseless complaints

*Kept in the Library

should be challaned and prosecuted. But Government does not consider this proper at present.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If the Government is not prepared to take action against persons putting in false complaints, then how does it propose to avoid harassment to Government servants and waste of time involved in investigating cases which ultimately turn out to be baseless ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that responsible persons should appeal to the people to refrain from making false complaints.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any regular register is maintained by the police for recording the entry of complaints of corruption ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Chief Minister aware that usually the reply to questions concerning complaints of corruption is given as complaints found baseless ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a matter of opinion.

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend should know that prosecution is taken up in genuine cases. No person can be challaned merely for the sake of starting proceedings against him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether a complaint which is declared as baseless, does not contain any truth ?

Chief Minister : When it is found baseless, it means that the contents of the complaints are wrong

Shri Virendra : May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that certain complaints were lodged with the Police but the same were not recorded ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member brings any such case to my notice, action will certainly be taken.

TEMPORARY POSTS

*1285. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has decided that all temporary posts above Rs. 50 per month will be filled in future on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ; if so, the manner in which the temporary staff already employed will be absorbed in services ;
- (b) the number of such temporary hands in the different Departments of the Government on 31-8-47 and 31-8-49 respectively ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes, Government have decided that all recruitment to posts carrying pay of Rs. 50 or above temporary or permanent, should in future be made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

As regards the staff already employed in the temporary departments, steps to safeguard their interests are under consideration.

(b) The time and labour involved in the collection of this information will not be commensurate with the benefits accruing from it.

Besides this I may say, Sir, that the Public Service Commission examined this question but they have not yet submitted their report.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission is considering over the decisions arrived at by the Government in this matter ?

Chief Minister : This matter is already under the consideration of the Public Service Commission. Moreover the Commission is considering as to how this can be done.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government arrived at a definite decision that all recruitments to posts carrying Rs. 50 or above should be made on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ?

Chief Minister : Government has already decided that.

SELECTION OF STENOGRAPHER IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT

***1286. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of permanent vacancies of Stenographers in the Civil Secretariat on 1. 4. 48.
- (b) the number of candidates who were examined and interviewed by the Public Service Commission to fill up the vacancies mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) when was this examination by the Public Service Commission held after 1-4-48 ;
- (d) the number of the candidates who were recommended by the Public Service Commission after holding the examination this year ;
- (e) whether the Public Service Commission send any list of the successful candidates in order of merit ; if so, whether the successful candidates were taken in the service in the order of merit on the list prepared by the Public Service Commission, if not, the reasons for the same ;
- (f) whether any other procedure was adopted in the matter of the selection of these stenographers and if so, why the list prepared by the Public Service Commission was overlooked ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The number of permanent vacancies of stenographers in the Civil Secretariat on 1-4-48 cannot be given, as the regular cadre of the Secretariat was fixed by the Cadre Committee with effect from the 1st July, 1948.

(b) In view of (a) above this question does not arise.

(c) The Public Service Commission Examination for stenographers was held in August, 1949.

(d) Fifteen candidates were recommended by the Commission.

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(e) and (f) A list of the successful candidates was supplied by the Commission in the order of merit. All the successful candidates were already serving in the Secretariat and they were given the seniority already assigned to them. The examination held by the Public Service Commission was a qualifying test and not a competitive examination.

AUTHORISED ACCOMMODATION IN POLICE LOCK-UPS

1287. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the authorised accommodation in the police lock-ups, Police station, Kotwali Amritsar City on 1-1-49 ;
- (b) the length, breadth and the height of the aforesaid police lock up on 1-1-49 ;
- (c) the number of detenus and other undertrial prisoners confined in the aforesaid police lock up between 1-1-49 and 8-1-49 ;
- (d) whether on any day during the period mentioned in part (c) above the number of the prisoners confined went upto about three times the authorised accommodation : if so, the arrangements made for confining the prisoners exceeding the authorised limit ;
- (e) whether a drain exists inside the police lock up through which the urine of the person confined passes and gives bad smell ; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take to remove this hardship of the prisoners confined therein ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) For 18 persons

(b) Length 19'-3"

Breadth 16'-8"

Height 16'

(c)	Date	Undertrial prisoners	Detenus
	1-1-49	41	3
	2-1-49	37	3
	3-1-49	60	
	4-1-49	34	
	5-1-49	34	2
	6-1-49	40	3
	7-1-49	48	2
	8-1-49	71	2

(d) On three days, i.e., 3-1-49, 7-1-49 and 8-1-49.

On account of rush some under trials were confined in the City Inspector's office an adjoining room of the lock-up.

There is also another small room measuring 11'-9" in length 8'-4" in breadth and 24" in height. This was previously used as a malkhana and now as a havalat. When the main lock up is congested a few prisoners are transferred to this room.

(e) Yes. Arrangements are being made to construct a new drain to let the urine pass outside the lock-up from one corner.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know as to how as many as 73 persons were accommodated in the police lock-up which was meant for 18 persons only?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know whether or not the Malkhana as referred to by him in reply to part (d) above, was also used on 8-1-49?

Chief Minister: I require fresh notice for this question.

Shri Virendra: Have any special arrangements been made for M. L. As?

Minister for Labour: The hon. Member need not worry.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that more than the fixed number of under-trial prisoners are accommodated in the police lock-ups?

Chief Minister: Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is there any law under which such rules can be violated?

Chief Minister: Such steps are taken when any emergency arises. Unfortunately provisions of law are violated by people themselves at the instigation of some interested persons as a result of which lock-ups get congested. More lock-ups cannot be constructed overnight. However the under-trial prisoners are being well accommodated in the lock-ups. Whenever any emergency arises, the office room of the City Inspector is also utilised for this purpose as has been done previously.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that people generally violate the laws, may I know whether the Government also feels the necessity to do so ?

Chief Minister : Government does not violate laws. It frames them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Since how long has the drain been giving bad smell ?

Chief Minister : It might have been giving bad smell since a long time back.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How long will it take to make the necessary repairs for removing this bad smell ?

Chief Minister : As soon as P. W. D. takes this work into hand.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know whether such conditions have been prevailing in the lock-ups since long ?

Chief Minister : I can say after 15th August 1947 only.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know whether the Government has not felt the necessity to requisition some houses for this purpose ?

Chief Minister : Perhaps the hon. Member is unmindful of the fact that even residential accommodation is not available for people these days.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the fact that the hon. Chief Minister has some knowledge for the last two and a half years, may I know as to how much time would it take to repair a drain ?

Thakur Dalip Singh : Is it a fact that no arrangements for passing urine and stools exist in thanas and lock-ups ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a general question.

Chief Minister : How does it arise out of this question ?

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

***1349. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) What new steps the Government has taken in the Anti-Corruption Drive after the last Budget Session ;

(b) Whether public co-operation has been encouraged and invited in this work ;

(c) Whether in this connection Government servants are required to give true account of their financial position and explain it in relation to their pay ;

(d) the number of cases of corruption that have been dealt with by the Anti-Corruption Committee before and after the last Budget Session respectively ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) The Government has appointed a Senior P.C.S. Officer as Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Committee to expedite the disposal of corruption cases. The staff of the Special Inquiry Agency and at headquarters has been strengthened.

(ii) A Special Magistrate has been appointed to hear cases of corruption. Two very senior officers of Government were especially appointed to complete departmental inquiries in corruption cases.

(iii) Information from other Provinces has been collected in order to know the steps being taken by them in this direction. This is to evolve ways and means to weed out Anti-Social practices.

(iv) The constitution of Disciplinary Proceedings (Administrative) Tribunal is under the consideration of Government.

(v) To check the tendency to make deliberately false complaints against public servants, the question of amending the existing law is also under the consideration of Government.

(vi) A poster containing pledges to be taken by members of the public as to the factors that lead to corruption was issued on Independence Day in three scripts and another poster inviting public co-operation in the eradication of corruption was also published in Urdu.

(b) Public co-operation is always welcomed by Government and is invited through the Press and propaganda.

(c) Not as yet. The amendment of relevant rules is under consideration.

(d) 1st part — 1715
2nd part — 761

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any action has been taken in connection with the steps taken by the Government in the anti-corruption drive in the state. If so, with what results. Has there been any appreciable decrease in corruption ?

Chief Minister : Government is not in possession of any such standards to judge whether corruption is on the decrease or increase.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that instructions have been issued by the Government to put an end to corruption, may I know whether there has been any appreciable decrease in corruption ?

Chief Minister : Enquiries are being made.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What steps has the Government taken to encourage public co-operation and invite public representatives in this matter ? Is it a fact that the only thing that it has been doing in this connection is that it has been carrying on propaganda through the press ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied this question. An Anti-Corruption Committee of non-officials has already been set up.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How many such committees have been set up ? Where have they been set up ? Are there any such committees in the districts ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that a committee has been set up. It is a Provincial Committee.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it about officials only ? Have any enquiries been made so far ?

Chief Minister : Enquiries have been made about officials.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is that Committee still living or dead ? Is it a fact that ever since the present Ministry has come into power, nothing has been heard about the anti-corruption drive in the state ?

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

INTERFERENCE IN POLICE ADMINISTRATION BY M. L. As.

*1420. Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press report of the summary of a speech by Superintendent of Police, Jullundur as published in the press on 29th December, 1949 including charges relating to the M.L.As for their alleged interference in police administration on the phone or otherwise ;
- (b) whether Government approves of its high placed officials to indulge in public criticism of such a nature :
- (c) if not, what steps, if any, have so far been taken by the Government against the officer mentioned in (a) :
- (d) what steps Government intend to take to prevent such acts in future ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes and Government have also seen verbatim notes of the speech in question, and the version of the speech as given in the press was found to be slightly different from the verbatim notes. The Superintendent of Police, in the course of his speech, requested the audience not to waste time of officials by recommendation and interference in the day to day administration by telephonic calls or otherwise, as this hampers the successful working of the administrative machinery. And the hon Member will agree that there was nothing objectionable in this.

(b) No, Government does not want its officials to "indulge in public criticism", but in the present case there was no such criticism.

(c) No action was called for.

(d) No action seems necessary.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether the official report has been certified by the representatives of the public who were present there. Is the official version correct or the press version ? Is it a fact that Shri Ram Krishen was present there ? Has the

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Official version been certified by any representative of the public ?

Chief Minister : I have not instituted any enquiry into this matter nor do I think there is any necessity to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How did the Government come to the conclusion that the version published in the Press was incorrect and that the official version was correct ?

Chief Minister : We reached this conclusion after a perusal of the verbatim report of the speech that was sent to us.

Shri Virendra : If I prove that the version supplied by the Superintendent of Police is incorrect, will the Government be prepared to take action against him ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know by whom the version of the speech supplied to the Government was recorded ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not true that the version supplied to the Government was recorded by a subordinate of the said Superintendent of Police ?

Chief Minister : So far as the taking and submission of reports is concerned, such an official is not supposed to be under the S. P.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that this Superintendent of Police had complained about the interference of M.L.As. to his superior officers even prior to this incident ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government intend giving protection to such officers as are being harassed by M.L.A's. ?

Chief Minister : Honourable Members of this Assembly cannot be permitted to do so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government intend to take action against those of them who do so ?

Chief Minister : Against whom should we take action ? They are part and parcel of the machinery of Government. Action is on the other hand called for against those who instead of remaining a part of the Government have thought it preferable to leave it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that the officers indulge in criticism of the M.L.As. and other congress men everywhere, in clubs, parties as well as courts ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the hon. Chief Minister think that the Police has changed so much since the days of British rule that every report made by them can be completely relied upon ? How is it that he attaches more reliability to their report than the report of the Secretary of the Provincial Congress Committee ?

Chief Minister : I have not received any report from the Secretary, Provincial Congress Committee.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is the Chief Minister prepared to order a public inquiry in this connection ?

Chief Minister : No, I don't think it is necessary.

DARBAR LISTS

***1422. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is still maintaining the old lists prepared during the British regime of public men to be invited on state ceremonial functions ;
- (b) whether Government has issued instructions for the revision of these lists ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) The institution of Darbars and Darbaries has been abolished by Government and as such no such lists of public men are at present maintained.
- (b) Does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that when the Governor or other high dignitaries go on tour, invitations to the local people for interview are issued on the basis of some old list ?

Chief Minister ; Reply has already been given.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On what basis the district authorities prepare the list of public men to meet the Governor or the Ministers when they go on tour ? Are there any lists

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of public men to be invited on such occasions, in existence or do the district officers invite whomsoever they like ?

Chief Minister : The Deputy Commissioners do not send for any body for interviews. Interviews are arranged for those who apply.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that when the Governor visited Rohtak last time, the Deputy Commissioner wrote letters to several persons inviting them to meet the Governor.

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, the reply given by the hon. Chief Minister is not quite correct.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Minister : I join issue in this. I am prepared to give a reply.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The Chief Minister has stated that no invitations are issued on such occasions. I can say from personal knowledge

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If you have personal knowledge then you mean to give some information to the House. It is not a question.

RELEASE OF DETENUS

*1486. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of cases of detenus considered and revised by the Advisory Board ;
- (b) the number of detenus recommended by the Board for release and whether such detenus have been released or not ; and if not, the reasons of not releasing them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 473

(b) (i) 260 recommended, and

(ii) 213 released. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the reasons for not releasing the remainder.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Now that the new Constitution has come into force, is it to be hoped that the detenus will be treated in keeping with the spirit of the new constitution?

Chief Minister : They are already being treated well.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In cases where the advice of the Advisory Board was not accepted, were they informed of the reasons why it was not accepted so that in future they should tender advice in the light of past experience?

Chief Minister : All the cases are from time to time sent to the Advisory Board for their opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Did the Government inform the Board of the reasons for which its advice was not accepted in cases where it was not accepted?

Chief Minister : When the whole case is sent to the Government, I don't think there is any necessity of informing the reasons for not accepting the advice, separately.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government framed any rules under which the Board can tender advice, or under which the advice can be accepted or rejected?

Chief Minister : We leave the matter to the judicial sense of the members of the Board.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Are the findings of the Advisory Board respected and their advice acted upon?

Chief Minister : Yes, that is why out of 260 cases recommended by the Board, 213 were accepted and the detenus were released.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Will the hon. Minister kindly let me know the names of the members of the Advisory Board?

Chief Minister : They are :—(i) Sardar Kartar Singh and (ii) Mr. Mukerjee.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know the rank to which these people belong?

Chief Minister : They are retired Sessions Judges.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the Advisory Board can consist of two members only ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know the number of cases that have been considered and revised by the Board ?

Chief Minister : The Board has recommended 260 cases for release out of which 213 persons have been released.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER

***1490. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether an Additoinal Financial Commissioner has been appointed in the state ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Yes, an Additional Financial Commissioner has been appointed in the Punjab State in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" and to relieve the Financial Commissioner, Revenue and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Revenue and Development Department, who was overworked of "Development Work".

Shrimati Sita Devi : It has been stated by the Chief Minister that the Financial Commissioners are very much overworked and cannot attend to the work connected with the Grow More Food Campaign. May I know if these officers could not be asked to cope with this additional work in view of the financial stringency in the Province ?

Chief Minister : I have not been able to understand the argument of the hon. lady Member because when the Advisory Board to review the cases of detenus was constituted of two members the hon. lady Member pressed for the increase in number.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know that in view of the Government's effort to bring all Government Expenditure to a minimum level, this additional expenditure of Rs. 3,500 per mensem would not be a burden to the Government exchequer ?

Chief Minister : It was considered necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether this additional Financial Commissioner has to do any other work besides the work in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign ?

Chief Minister : He is also in charge of Development Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the names of other departments which are under him ?

Chief Minister : These are :—(i) Agriculture Department ; (ii) Co-operative Department; (iii) Forest Department; and (iv) Veterinary Department ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the work has increased or it was only intended to fix up a highly placed officer on this post ?

Chief Minister : The Government is always moved by consideration of work.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Did not the Government keep in view the financial stringency in the province while making this appointment ?

Chief Minister : The appointment had to be made as the work had increased.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Was any suitable Government servant with less salary available to the Government ?

Chief Minister : The Government had to appoint a person of the rank of Financial Commissioner.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the post was created with a view to appoint Chief Secretary ?

Chief Minister : No. There is no truth in this statement.

Mr. Speaker : This is an expression of opinion.

BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

*1504 **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has entered into a contract with a French concern to build Bhakra and Nangal Projects ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative ; whether the Punjab Government had consulted the Government of India, before entering into such contract with a foreign firm ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise:

Shri Virendra : Has the Government decided to entrust the work of Bhakra Dam to any foreign concern ?

Chief Minister : No decision has been reached so far. The matter has been referred to the Government of India for consultation.

Shri Virendra : When is such decision likely to be made ?

Chief Minister : As soon as any reply from the Government of India is received.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : According to the newspaper reports it was understood that the Government was negotiating with some French concern. Is it a fact or a baseless rumour ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member can well imagine himself.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would like the hon. Members to please note that the practice of putting questions based on newspaper reports should be discouraged as far as possible.

VOLUNTARY CUT IN THE SALARY OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS

*1506. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the percentage of the voluntary cut accepted by the following in their salaries :—
 - (i) Hon. Ministers ;

- (ii) Financial Commissioners ;
- (iii) Commissioners ;
- (iv) Secretaries to the Government ;
- (v) Deputy Commissioners ;
- (vi) Superintendents of Police ;

(b) the total annual saving to the Government by this voluntary cut in the salary of the various officers ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No percentage has been fixed for the voluntary cut but flat rates have been accepted as detailed below :

(i) The Chief Minister has surrendered Rs. 650 per mensem from his monthly salary of Rs. 2,000 and the other hon. Ministers Rs. 150 per mensem each from their salaries of Rs. 1,500 per mensem each.

(ii), (iii) & (iv) In case of Financial Commissioners, Commissioners of Divisions and Secretaries to Government, whose pay is Rs. 3,000 per mensem or above, a voluntary cut of Rs. 250 per mensem plus 4th of the excess of pay over Rs. 3,000 per mensem has been made, provided that the pay of any officer which exceeds Rs. 2,750 per mensem but does not exceed Rs. 3,000 per mensem is reduced to Rs. 2,750 per mensem, the amount by which this reduction is made is deducted from the compulsory savings to which the officer concerned has to be subjected under the rules.

(v) & (vi) In the case of Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police no cut has been imposed since in their case their pay does not exceed Rs. 2,750 per mensem in any case.

(b) It is not possible to give the exact amount of annual saving but it would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1 lakh and one thousand.

Shri Virendra : May I know why this cut has not been imposed on the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police when this cut is levied in the case of Ministers who draw Rs. 1,500 per mensem ?

Chief Minister : This is at their discretion and if any Deputy Commissioner likes to surrender the amount he can do so.

Shri Virendra : Was it at the suggestion of the Government that these officers are surrendering part of their pay ?

Chief Minister : No such suggestion was made by the Government. This is a compulsory saving to which the officers concerned have to be subjected under the rules.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was it at the suggestion of the Government that the salaries of such officers are subject to cut ?

Chief Minister : Suggestion was, however, made to the persons drawing Rs. 3,000.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the net salary which these officers now draw after deducting this amount as well as the amount of income tax ?

Chief Minister : I require separate notice for this question.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if by making all sorts of deductions, together with electricity charges and water charges, from the salary of the hon. Minister, the amount will be sufficient for his subsistence ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will not the hon. Ministers now compensate the loss by increasing their tours ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is an insinuation, the hon. Member should avoid it.

Shri Virendra : Has His Excellency the Governor surrendered any amount ?

Chief Minister : Yes. There was no notice of this question otherwise I would have given the figure.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government would withdraw the orders regarding imposition of this cut at any time ?

Chief Minister : Yes. It is a temporary measure.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know if the Government propose to suggest to the Members of the Assembly to surrender some part of their compensatory allowance ?

LICENCES FOR ARMS

***1521. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether specific rules or clearcut instructions exist to guide the district authorities in granting licences for arms ;
- (b) if so, the copy of these rules or instructions be laid on the table ;
- (c) whether these rules are uniform in their application or whether the policy and procedure in this connection varies from district to district ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Under rule 23 of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, licences are granted by District Magistrates in their discretion to suitable persons.

(b) The Indian Arms Rules is a priced publication and a copy thereof can be had for payment.

(c) The above rule is uniform and is applicable to every district of the Punjab.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Is it not a fact that licences have not been granted to eminent citizens at Amritsar whereas they have been issued to men of no position and importance ?

Chief Minister: If a definite case is cited, it will be enquired into.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Have such cases come to the notice of the Chief Minister ?

Chief Minister: In case they ever came to my notice, they must have been enquired into.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does the procedure mentioned by the Chief Minister also apply to unlicensed arms ?

Chief Minister : Unlicensed arms had to be surrendered.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has it come to the notice of Government that in the various districts of the Province and particularly in the Rohtak District officers refuse to grant licences to the progressive and congress-minded people but are pleased to favour bad characters ?

Chief Minister : I can't say anything unless a definite case is brought to my notice.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioners are still being led by the old policy when a change is urgently called for ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Have instructions been issued to officers that a smaller number of licenses should be issued to ruralites in comparison with the urbanites ?

Chief Minister : No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Should not the old policy framed during the British regime which barred progressive people from getting licences be now changed ?

Chief Minister : All old rules and Acts have been adapted now and in all cases which come under the Indian Arms Act we have recourse to the advice of Government of India.

Shri Virendra : Have some instructions been issued to the Government that recommendations of M.L.A.s should be disregarded ?

Chief Minister : No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is not Government prepared to change the old policy ?

Chief Minister : We will certainly consider if there is a suggestion.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Government pay the price of unlicensed arms which have been surrendered ?

Chief Minister : Such a complicated question can only be answered on a notice.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Has Government issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners that grant of licences to ruralites be discouraged ?

Chief Minister : I seek your protection, Sir. I cannot disclose these instructions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that it was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister in the presence of about 500 workers that licences of members of the City Congress Committee and other respectable persons were forfeited and one was given to a fellow who committed a murder with his revolver only a few days after the grant of licence ?

Chief Minister : If and when a complaint comes to me it is enquired into.

EARTHWORK IN IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

***1350 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of complaints against the Sub-Divisional Officer, Jhajjar in Haryana Division have reached the Government with regard to the manner in which earthwork is done ; if so, to what effect ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The hon. Member had sent in a complaint to the Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal; West Circle alleging—

- (i) That the Sub-Divisional Officer, Jhajjar Sub-Division had been paying wrong excessive bills for the earthwork which could be verified by re-checking the work already checked by the Sub-Divisional Officer.
- (ii) That the contractors had been giving very low tenders during his incumbency only for his being corrupt while in other sub-divisions the contractors were not willing to work for less than 300 per cent above basic rates, in his sub-division the rates offered by the contractors were 200 per cent or even less.

The complaint was got thoroughly investigated but the allegations were not found correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Who enquired into the complaint which the Chief Minister says is baseless and which was submitted by an M.L.A. in writing in the presence of the Minister in charge of Irrigation, the Chief Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officer, Jhajjar ?

Chief Minister : The Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it on the basis of the enquiry made by the Executive Engineer that the Chief Minister considers the complaint as baseless ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was not the complaint made by way of challenge to the Department saying that 95 per cent of the work shown by it was merely bogus ? And is it not a fact that dishonesty and corruption is rampant in the Irrigation Department ?

Chief Minister : I do not think so.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know if the complainants were also consulted at time of making enquiry ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall be in a position to answer this question. According to the standing instructions, however, the complainant is given an opportunity of explaining his point of view and he is summoned for that purpose.

BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

***1351 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the progress of work in the Bhakra and Nangal Projects with the percentage of work done monthly since the partition ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced the system on the above Projects of taking certificates from officers to the effect that none of their relation and old friends are working under them as subordinates and contractors ;
- (c) whether contractors were ever asked to certify that none of their relations were working in the Irrigation Branch ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) The contract designs of the Bhakra Dam have recently been completed in the States.

The work of the construction of the essential item of communications is almost complete. The East Punjab Railway have constructed a Railway Line 38 miles long from Rupar to Nangal and Canal Railway Line from Nangal to the Bhakra Dam is nearing completion.

Metalled road from Nangal to Bhakra has been constructed.

For the diversion of the River two 50 feet diameter tunnel of a total length of about a mile are required. Pilot headings of these tunnels have been completed and the enlargement is in progress. The total rock excavation done upto date is 222,000. cyd.

A very large colony has grown up at Nangal. 19 officers quarters, 88 senior staff quarters, 103 Junior Staff quarters, 180 lower grade staff quarters and 71 workmen and labour hut sets have been constructed. The work of the construction of hospital and the school is in progress.

A large workshop would be required for which 8 hangers have been erected and considerable quantity of machinery collected which is being installed.

At Bhakra itself 9 officers shelter huts, 42 overseers, 4 blocks of lower grade staff quarters and 60 rooms for the workmen have been constructed.

At present 4 kilns for the burning of bricks are under operation at Nangal and it is hoped to complete the construction of the colony within the next year.

The Nangal Dam comprised 28 bays of 30 feet span out of which 11 have been completed. The total quantity of concrete laid uptodate is 40 lakhs cft. against about 70 lakhs cft. estimated. The river has now subsided and it is hoped to complete the dam during the winter.

The Nangal Hydel channel is 38 miles long. Its excavation is in full swing and uptodate progress is 28 crores cft of earthwork against the estimated quantity of 69 crores cft. The work could have been considerably expedited but for lack of machinery.

The contract for the supply of four units of turbines and generators has been let to Messrs. Westinghouse Electric International Company.

The excavation of the foundation at powerhouse No. 1 is in progress.

The Nangal Canal passes through sub-mountainous tract and has 55 No. drainage crossings. A very large number of these have been designed and the construction in 16213 work is in progress.

The alignment work of the Bhakra Main Canal has been completed and the work of excavation is in progress. The total quantity of earthwork done uptodate is 8 crores cft.

(Minister for Local Self Govt. and Labour)

Very excessive labour would be involved to work out the percentage of work done monthly and this is not worth the result.

About 90 per cent of the work described above has been done since the partition.

The progress depends upon the funds available and the dollar allocation.

(b) No. Such orders have been issued by the Government.

(c) No. The local officers generally ensure that no contractor related to a Government employee is working within his zone of influence.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what steps the Government takes to ensure that the friends or relatives of the engineers are not given contracts and what system has the Government adopted to make sure in this connection ?

Chief Minister : The Chief Engineer makes the necessary enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government laid down some procedure or does it rely on the verbal enquiries made by their officers ?

Chief Minister : As submitted by me, according to the instructions issued by the Government, the Chief Engineer makes the necessary enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How does the Chief Engineer satisfy himself that the friends or relatives of the officers are not given the contract works ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for answering this question.

Shri Amar Nath Vidvalankar : May I know if the Government made enquiries about the cause of the collapse of one of the dams ? If so, how much loss had the Government to suffer on this account ?

Chief Minister : It is a fact that one of the dams gave way but I am not in a position to say about the amount of loss suffered by the Government on this account.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government make enquiries from the contractors also, to ensure that none of their

relatives or friends are in charge of the work for which they apply for being given contract ?

Chief Minister : There are definite instructions on the subject and these are being followed in each case.

CONSTRUCTION ON BAYS AT NANGAL

***1352. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of bays at Nangal on downstream of Canal which have yet to be constructed giving separately the number of them completed so far and whether they are of different heights and bed levels ;
- (b) the number of bays that should work to pass the high rising supply of river through them with the number of those working at present ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the work has been delayed for a season more and extra expenditure incurred because of lack of foresight in the construction of bays; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The number of bays of Nangal Dam yet to be constructed is $15\frac{1}{2}$ and the number of bays completed is $12\frac{1}{2}$.

The designed crest level of all the bays is the same, but in accordance with the scheme of construction, the initial crest level is 12 feet lower than the final. The object of the arrangement is to facilitate the diversion operations.

(b) The number of bays that should work to pass the high flood discharge is 28.

(c) The work has not been delayed. Expenditure had to be incurred to provide escape arrangement in the intermediate stage of construction.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the work in connection with Nangal and Bhakra Projects is progressing according to plan or some delay has occurred ?

Chief Minister : There has been no delay in respect of Nangal Project.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has there been no delay in the case of either of these two Projects ?

Chief Minister : There has been no delay in the execution of work connected with Nangal Project. In the case of Bhakra Project, however, there has been some delay.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the work progressing according to programme ?

Chief Minister : Yes, it is progressing according to programme.

EXCESS STAFF ON BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

***1353. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the staff of responsible officers and subordinates on the Bhakra and Nangal Projects is fully occupied and necessary for the work in hand ;
- (b) whether the officers stay at works to supervise the execution or whether they only do inspection work on running channel ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes.

(b) They stay at works as circumstances warrant.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the fact that instead of giving fifteen crores of rupees, the Government of India is going to pay only seven and a half crores of rupees, is it proposed to reduce the number of staff engaged on these projects ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to say anything about it, at present.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that much of the staff has no work to do and remain idle most of the time ?

Chief Minister : I don't think so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the hon. Premier ascertained this from the Chief Engineer ?

Chief Minister : I have recently visited the places where those projects are being executed and my statement is based on what I actually saw.

LOAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL

***1455. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state the ways and means for financing the construction of Capital at Chandigarh ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The Capital Scheme as envisaged at present is proposed to be financed from the return from the sale of plots to the public after developing them. The amount so realised will, if necessary, be supplemented by rupees three crores to be obtained as loan from the Government of India for rehabilitation purposes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the estimated amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of the Capital ? Three crores of rupees are to be received from the Government of India and some money is to be paid by the people who intend to purchase plots of land. What is the probable total expenditure to be incurred ?

Chief Minister : Ten crores of rupees are likely to be spent on development and on construction of buildings.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If only three crores of rupees are to be received from the Government of India, where from does the Government intend to obtain the remaining amount ?

Chief Minister : The Government will have to suffer no loss in this connection.

Shri Virendra : May I have some idea of the price at which building sites are proposed to be allotted to the applicants ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to say anything at present but shall be able to do so sometime in May.

Shree Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that people have no confidence in the Government ?

Voices : Order, Order.

Shri Virendra : What is the total number of applications received for allotment of building-sites at the new-capital ?

Chief Minister : Formerly thirty two thousand applications were received, but many more are pouring in now.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that Government obtained land from the agriculturists at cheap rates and is now going to sell it at very high rates in the black market ?

Chief Minister : This is wrong and is an insinuation.

Mr. Speaker : I think such words must not be used in the House and I would ask the hon. Member not to repeat such words on the floor of the House in future.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has the Government got some money in hand also or does it rely on what is to be obtained from others¹ ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POLICE STRENGTH IN EACH DISTRICT OF EAST PUNJAB-

344. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

- (a) (i) the number of constables, Head-constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors, Deputy Superintendents, Additional Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Superintendents, Senior Superintendents of Police in each of the districts of the East Punjab on the 1st January 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively including the Punjab Armed Police ;
- (ii) the sanctioned strength of the police for the execution duties in each district on the aforesaid dates ;
- (b) the number of the sweepers, jharumars, gardeners, barbers employed by the police Department in each district on the dates mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) whether as a result of retrenchment any sweepers or others mentioned in part (b) above are going to be relieved ; if so, the number proposed to be reduced in each district ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

¹Vide Debates of 8-3-50 for further Supplementary Questions and Answers relating to Question No. *1455.

COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS IN THE NEW CAPITAL

345. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any committee for administrative buildings in the New Capital was appointed by the Government during the year 1948, if so, when ?
- (b) the names of the official and non-official members respectively ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by the Committee up till 31-1-1950 ;
- (d) the total expenditure borne by the Government on this Committee ;
- (e) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non-official members of the Committee ;
- (f) whether any report has so far been submitted to the Government by this Committee ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made ; and the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad: (a) Yes. A Sub-Committee for Administrative buildings was constituted by the Government in November 1948.

(b) The personnel of the Sub Committee as then constituted, comprised of following officers :—

(i) Shri Sant Ram Varma, P.C.S.

(ii) S. Ajit Singh Kalia, Director, Central Designs, Irrigation Branch.

(iii) Dewan Jagat Mohan Lal, Assistant Secretary, Civil Secretariat.

No non-official members have so far been co-opted. (c) to (f) No meeting of this sub-committee has so far been held.

COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS IN THE NEW CAPITAL

346. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(S. Sajjan Singh)

- (a) whether any committee for Legislative buildings in the new Capital was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held so far ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of its non-official members up till 31-1-1950 ;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this committee so far ;
- (f) whether any report has so far been submitted by this committee to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) A Sub-Committee for Legislative Buildings was set up by the Government in November 1948.

(b) The Sub-Committee as then constituted, had the following personnel :—

- (i) The hon. Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- (ii) Secretary, Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- (iii) Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, M.L.A., later replaced by Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi.
- (iv) S. Dalip Singh Kang, M.L.A.
- (v) Secretary (Dev.) B. & R. Branch.

(c) to (f) No meetings have so far been convened, as it was decided to hold in abeyance the Capital Scheme temporarily. Now that the scheme has been revived, it is hoped to convene meetings of this Sub-Committee, though the personnel thereof may have to be reshuffled.

PRESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

347. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Press Advisory Committee was constituted by Government during the period from 15-8-47 to 31-1-50 ;

- (b) the names of the members of this committee with their full addresses ;
- (c) the number of meetings held by this committee during the aforesaid period ;
- (d) whether any travelling allowance was drawn by the members of this committee for attending its meetings from the Government treasury ; if so, the amount drawn by each member up till 31-1-50 ;
- (e) the rate of fare by road and rail respectively allowed to the members of this committee ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (1) Shri A.C. Bali, care of the *Tribune* Ambala Cantt.
- (2) Shri Nanak Chand Naz, Editor, the *Prabhat*, Jullundur.
- (3) S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard, Editor the *Ajit*, Jullundur.
- (4) Shri Romesh Chander Chopra, care of the *Hind Samachar*, Jullundur, upto 2-1-1949 ; and Shri Jagat Narain Chopra, care of the *Hind Samachar*, Jullundur, thereafter.
- (5) Shri Dina Nath Atish, care of the *Vir Bharat* Amritsar.
- (6) Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Managing Editor, the *Vartman*, Amritsar.
- (7) Gyani Shadi Singh, Chief Editor, the *Akali Patrika*, Jullundur.
- (8) Shri Mohan Lal, Joint Editor, the *Jai Hind*, Jullundur, upto 6-9-1949 and Shri Virendra, care of the *Jai Hind*, Jullundur, thereafter.
- (c) Eleven (inclusive of four of the Emergency Panel of the Committee, consisting of 3 members)

(d) Yes ;

			Rs.	a	p.
Shri A. C. Bali	...	...	852	0	0
Shri Nanak Chand Naz	...	...	1,143	6	0
S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard	...	...	1,658	10	0
Shri Romesh Chander Chopra	...	...	183	0	0
Shri Jagat Narain Chopra	...	...	945	0	0
Shri Dina Nath Atish	...	...	1,895	4	0
S. Gurdial Singh Dhillon	...	...	1,302	12	0
Gyani Shadi Singh	...	...	941	10	0
Shri Mohan Lal	...	...	375	0	0
Shri Virendra	...	...	183	12	0

(e) First Class by rail and annas eight by road.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

348. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Resources and Retrenchment Committee was constituted by the Government between 15-8-47 and 31-1-50 ;
- (b) the names of the members of this Committee ;
- (c) the date when this Committee was appointed ;
- (d) the number of the meetings held by this Committee up till 31-1-50.
- (e) the travelling allowances drawn by each of the non-official members of this Committee up till 31-1-50 ;
- (f) the total expenditure incurred by Government up till now on this Committee ;
- (g) whether the Committee has submitted any report to the Government ; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 1. The hon. Finance Minister, (Chairman)
 - 2. Shri Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A.
 - 3. S. Ujjal Singh, M.L.A.
 - 4. Shrimati Sita Devi, M.L.A.
 - 5. Shri Ganga Saran, M.L.A.
 - 6. Shri Bihari Lal Chanana, M.L.A.
 - 7. S. Jagjit Singh Man, M.L.A.
 - 8. Seth Sudarshan, M.L.A.
 - 9. Dr. L.C. Jain, M.A.Ph.D., D.Sc. (London).
 - 10. Finance Secretary to Government, Punjab.
- (c) The Committee was appointed on the 5th July, 1948.
- (d) Six meetings were held which lasted for a total period of 27 working days.

- (e) The amount of travelling allowances drawn by the non-official members of the Committee upto the 31st January 1950 is shown against the name of each :—

			Rs.	a.	p.
Dr. L.C. Jain	...	...	2,430	12	0
Shri Dev Raj Sethi	...	...	1,569	0	0
Shrimati Sita Devi	...	...	1,447	8	0
S. Jagjit Singh Man	...	...	928	12	0
S. Ujjal Singh	...	...	702	5	0
Shri Bihari Lal Chanana	...	...	700	5	0
Seth Sudarshan	...	...	630	6	0
Shri Ganga Saran	...	...	220	14	0
TOTAL ...			8,627	14	0

- (f) The total expenditure incurred by Government on the Committee upto the 31st January 1950 is Rs. 62,075.

(g) The Committee has not yet submitted the report but such resolutions as the Committee was able to adopt were forwarded to Government for their consideration. Suitable action has already been taken in some cases. It is hoped that the hon. Member will appreciate that it is not possible for Government to review the various recommendations of the Committee as a whole at this stage. The Report is, however, ready and likely to be signed by the members sometime during the current month.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION BOARD FOR RURAL AREA

349 Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any provincial Relief and Rehabilitation Board for rural areas was constituted by Government between 15th August 1947 and 31st January 1950 ; if so, the date of its constitution ;

(S. Sajjan Singh)

- (b) the names of non-official members of this Board ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by this board during the aforesaid period ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non-official members up till 31st January 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : The answer is laid on the table *

**RELIEF AND REHABILITATION BOARD FOR
URBAN AREA**

350. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any provincial Relief and Rehabilitation Board for urban areas was constituted by the Government between 15th August 1947 and 31st January 1950 : and if so, the date of its constitution ;
- (b) the names of the members of this Board ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by the Board up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the members up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Board and any of its committees ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : The answer is laid on the table *

KARNAL DISTRICT FIREWOOD COMMITTEE, KARNAL

351. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Karnal District Firewood Committee, Karnal, was appointed by the Government between 15th August 1947 and 31st January 1950 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of its members ;

* Kept in the Library.

- (c) the number of the meetings held by this committee up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this committee up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (e) the travelling allowance drawn by each of its non-official members, if any, up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (f) whether this committee submitted any report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken by Government thereon ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

POLICE CONSTABLES AND OTHER POLICE OFFICERS FOR GUARDING HOUSES

352. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the police constables and other police officers engaged for guarding the residential houses of Ministers and of Government officers in each of the districts during the months of July 1946, 1948 and 1949 respectively ;
- (b) the total amount paid as salaries and other allowances to the police employees mentioned in part (a) above for July 1946, 1948 and 1949 respectively ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) The number of Police officers and men engaged for guarding the residential houses of Ministers is as under :—

District	July 1946	July 1948	July 1949
Simla	Figures not available	1 Head Constable 17 Foot Constables	1 Head Constable 4 Foot Constables

(S. Sajjan Singh)

(ii) No Police were engaged for guarding the residential houses of other Government servants, except personal guards, as laid down in Police rules 18·20 which are not intended for the protection of houses or property.

(b) Total amount paid as salary and allowances to the Police guards mentioned at (a) (i) above is given below :—

District	July 1946	July 1948	July 1949
Simla	Figures not available	Rs. 1,212	Rs. 408

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

353. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any general administration committee for advising the Government was appointed by the Government between 15-8-47 and 31-1-50 ; and if so, on what date or dates during this period ;
- (b) the names of the members appointed each time ;
- (c) the number of the meetings of this committee held uptill now ;
- (d) the travelling allowances drawn by each of the non-official members of this committee during the period mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (e) the rate of fare by road and rail respectively allowed for travelling allowance to the non-official members of the committee.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. The Administrative Advisory Committee was appointed on the 21st of May, 1949.

- (b) 1. Pt. Shri Ram Sharma, M.L.A.
- 2. Shri Kidar Nath Sehgal, M.L.A.
- 3. Babu Bachan Singh, M.L.A.
- 4. Giani Kartar Singh, M.L.A.
- 5. Dr. Lehna Singh, M.L.A.
- 6. Thakar Pancham Chand, M.L.A. Deputy Speaker,
- 7. Ch. Kartar Singh, M.L.A.
- 8. Ch. Mehr Chander, M.L.A.
- 9. Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A.

(Babu Bachan Singh, M.L.A. resigned on the 13th September 1949 and Pt. Faqir Chand M.L.A. was appointed in his place)

(c) Four.

(d)	Name		T.A. Drawn		
			Rs	a.	p.
1.	Pt. Shri Ram Sharma	...	1,508	6	0
2.	Shri Kidar Nath Sehgal	...	1,093	0	0
3.	Babu Bachan Singh	...	520	8	0
4.	Dr. Lehna Singh	...	360	0	0
5.	Thakur Pancham Chand	...	800	4	0
6.	Ch. Mehr Chand	...	387	0	0
7.	Shrimati Shanno Devi	..	1,035	0	0

(e) 1st class railway fare or at the rate of annas eight per mile per road.

COAL DISTRIBUTION BOARD

354. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- whether any Coal Distribution Board in East Punjab was constituted by Government between 15-8-47 and 31-1-50, if so, when ;
- the names of the non-official members of the board ;
- the number of the meetings held by this Board up till 31-1-50 ;
- the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non-official members of the board up till 31-1-50 ;
- the total expenditure incurred by Government on this board up till 31-1-50 ;

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- Yes. it was set up in December, 1947.
- L. Bhagwan Dass, M.L.A. c/o M/s. Bijja Mal Mela Ram, the Mall, Simla.
- Twelve.
- No T. A. has been drawn by the non-official member.
- No expenditure has been incurred by the Government on this Board.

GARDEN COLONY SELECTION COMMITTEE

355. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Garden Colony Selection Committee was appointed by the Government in 1948 ; if so, the date of its appointment ;
- (b) the names of the non-official members of this Committee up till 31-1-50 ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by this Committee up till 31-1-50 ;
- (d) whether any report dealing with the final selection of the candidates whom land was to be allotted was made by this Committee ; if so, when ?
- (e) the action taken by the Government on this report of the Committee ;
- (f) the names of the areas selected by the Committee for Garden Colonies in each District ;
- (g) the total area of land to be reserved for Garden Colonies in each district ;
- (h) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non-official member of this Committee up till 31-1-50.
- (i) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this Committee up till 31-1-50?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Yes. A Garden Colony Selection Committee was appointed by the Government on the 8th January, 1948.

(b) 1. Chaudhri Sahib Ram, M. L. A. of Chotala, Distt. Hissar.

2. Sardar Bakhtwar Singh, Rais Abadpura (Jullundur City.)

(c) Four.

(d) The Committee does not submit any report. It passes orders on the agenda, placed before it including the approval of name for allotment of Grand Colony.

- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) & (g) The list is attached.*
- (h) Nil.
- (i) Nil.

AMRITSAR MEDICAL COLLEGE SITE COMMITTEE

356. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Amritsar Medical College Site Committee was formed by Government during the year 1948; if so, when ;
- (b) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; if so when, and the nature of the recommendations made by this committee ;
- (c) the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this committee ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Yes—in January, 1948.
- (b) Yes—in May, 1948. The Committee recommended that a 500-bedded hospital be built near the Glancy Medical College, Amritsar, and 60 acres of land be acquired for the purpose at an approximate cost of Rs. 75 lakhs including the cost of the acquisition of land, construction of buildings and cost of equipment.
- (c) Government have not accepted the recommendations of the committee in view of the heavy expenditure involved and have, therefore, abandoned the idea of constructing a new 500-bedded hospital at Amritsar.
- (d) Rs. 688/9/-.

* Kept in the Library.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HISTORICAL RECORDS

357. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Regional Committee for survey of Historical Records was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of the Committee together with their addresses ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by the Committee during the years 1948 and 1949 respectively ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the members up till 31-1-50 ;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Committee so far ;
- (f) whether the Committee has submitted its report ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. It was constituted in July, 1948.
- (b) The names and addresses of the members are given below :—

1. Dr. G. L. Chopra, Chairman, Punjab Historical Record Office, Simla.
2. S. Waryam Singh, Prof. Khalsa College, Amritsar.
3. Shri Chaman Lal Kapur, Principal, Training College, Jullundur.
4. Prof. Jai Chandra, Vidya Alankar, 1. Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi.
5. Dr. R. R. Sethi, Punjab University Camp College, New Delhi.
6. Baba Prem Singh of Hoti, Bagrian House, Simla.
7. Shri Vidya Sagar Suri, Secretary, Punjab Historical Record Office, Simla.

(c) No meeting was held during the years 1948 and 1949, but the chairman kept in touch with the members by correspondence and by meeting them while on tour.

(d) The travelling allowance drawn by Dr. G. L. Chopra, the Chairman and Shri Vidya Sagar Suri, the Secretary, amounted to Rs. 1,865-4-0 and Rs. 533-6-0 respectively. Other members did not draw any T.A.

(e) Apart from the expenditure indicated under (d) above, and expenditure on correspondence, no other expenditure was incurred.

(f) Yes. The Chairman of this committee submits a periodical report to Government indicating the progress made in the survey work, generally, detailing the historical materials discovered and recommending their acquisition by Government for preservation in the Punjab Record Office.

CHO MENACE COMMITTEE, HOSHIARPUR

358. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Cho Menace Committee, Hoshiarpur was appointed by the Government, if so, when ;
- (b) the names of its members together with their addresses ;
- (c) the number of meetings held by this committee ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of non-official members of this committee up till 31-1-50 ;
- (e) whether any report has been submitted to the Government by this committee ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action so far taken by the Government on these recommendations ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes, in November, 1948.
- (b) 1. Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur.
- 2. S. Udhe Singh Madan, Divisional Forest Officer, Hoshiarpur .

(Minister for Development)

3. S. Mehr Singh, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Hoshiarpur.
4. Shri H.L. Sally, P.S.E. Executive Engineer, Project Division.
5. Shri S.D. Nijhawan, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Government Agricultural College, Amritsar.
6. Ch. Kartar Singh, M.L.A., Hoshiarpur.
7. Mian Narindar Singh, Senior Vice-Chairman, District Board, Hoshiarpur.

(c) One.

(d) Nil.

(e) Yes, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Assembly Question No. 957 (Starred) asked by S. Piara Singh, M.L.A. in the budget session of the Assembly last year. Necessary steps are being taken by the Forest Department and the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur to give effect to those recommendations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS COMMITTEE

359. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Local Government, Reforms Committee was appointed by the Government in 1948 ; if so, when;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee together with their addresses ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by this committee during the years 1948 and 1949 respectively ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non-official members of this committee up till 31-1-50 ;
- (e) the total expenditure incurred on this committee by the Government up till 31-1-50 ;
- (f) whether any report has been submitted by the committee to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) Yes, August, 1948.

(b) The names and addresses of the members of the Committee are as follows :

(1) Shri J. N. Shrinagesh, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Jullundur Division.

(2) Shri P. C. Bhandari, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Amritsar.

(3) S. Shiv Saran Singh, M.L.A.

(4) L. Kesho Ram, Advocate, ex-President, Municipal Committee, Amritsar.

(5) S. Labh Singh, ex-President, Municipal Committee, Gujranwala.

(6) Late Shri Dev Raj Sawhney, Advocate, President, Bar Association, Simla.

(7) Shri Ramjidad Kapala, Member Secretary.

(c) 1948 one.

1949 5

			Rs.	As.	Ps.
(d) (1)	Shri P. C. Bhandari	...	235	8	0
(2)	S. Shiv Saran Singh	...	466	6	0
(3)	S. Labh Singh	...	819	10	0
(4)	Shri Kesho Ram	...	719	8	0

(e) Rs. 20,860

(f) An attempt was made by the Committee at a report, but the document is slipshod and puts forth no useful suggestions.

JAIL REFORMS COMMITTEE

360. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any Jail Reforms Committee was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;

(b) the names of the members of this committee together with their full addresses ;

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee ?

(Sardar Sajjan Singh)

(d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of its members up till 31-1-50 ;

(e) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so the nature of the recommendations made ;

(f) the action, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes, with East Punjab Government, Resolution No. 4137-JJ-48/30044, dated the 2nd June, 1948.

(b) 1. Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava, Chairman, Advocate Hissar and Member Constituent Assembly, 31, Canning Lane, New Delhi.

2. Pt. Jagat Ram Bhardwaj, Member, Jail Reforms Committee, Haryana, District Hoshiarpur.

3. Pt. Neki Ram Sharma, Member, Jail Reforms Committee, Bhiwani, District Hissar.

4. S. Gulab Singh, Member, Jail Reforms Committee, Mohalla Basanwala, Jullundur City.

5. Captain Dr. Munshi Singh Member, Jail Reforms Committee, Mohalla Gobindgarh, Jullundur City.

6. Ch. Rattan Singh, M. L. A., Beehta (Kesri), District Ambala.

7. Shree B. C. Katoch, Secretary, Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab.

8. Pt. K. K. Muttou, Member, Superintendent, Central Jail, Ferozepur.

9. Shree R. R. Kumria, Member, Professor. Government Training College, Jullundur.

10. Shree M. R. Mehra, Deputy Commissioner, Criminal Tribes, Jullundur.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(c) Pay etc., of Establishment ...	4,290	8	0
Travelling Allowance of			
Member and Establishment ..	13,211	14	0
Kit Allowance	115	0	0
Contingencies	615	0	0
Total Expenditure ...	18,232	6	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
(d) 1. Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava, Chairman,	3,524	6	0
2. Pt. Jagat Ram Bhardawaj Member,	1,476	6	0
3. Pt. Neki Ram Sharma, Member,	1,173	15	0
4. S. Gulab Singh, Member,	1,178	11	0
5. Capt. Dr. Munshi Singh, Member,	1,026	9	0
6. Ch. Rattan Singh, M. L. A.,	1,123	12	0
7. Shree B. C. Katoch, I G., Prisons,	744	2	0
8. Pt. K. K. Mutoo, Member,	538	2	0
9. Shree M. R. Mehra, D. C., C. T.,	486	5	0
Total	11,272	4	0

(e) A copy of the report is placed on the table* and shows the recommendations made by the Committee.

(f) The recommendations made are being considered by Government.

COMMITTEE FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

361. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any committee for small scale and cottage industries was formed by the Government during the year 1948; if so, when:

(b) the names of the members of this committee;

(c) the number of the meetings held by it during the years 1948 and 1949, separately;

* Kept in the Library.

(Sardar Sajjan Singh)

- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the non official members up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (e) whether the committee has submitted any report to the Government ; if so, when ;
- (f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on this report ;
- (g) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee up till 31 January 1950 ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes, Small Scale Industries Committee was constituted by the Government on the 21st February, 1948.
- (b) The names of the members which represented the Committee are given below :—
 1. Chaudhri Krishan Gopal Dutt, M.L.A.
 2. Shri Achint Ram,
 3. Shri Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A.
 4. Shri Sohan Lal Oberoi
 5. Shri Prithi Chand Nayar
 6. Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab
 7. Director of Industries, Punjab
- (c) Nos. of meetings held :—

1948	...	...	...	5
1949	...	...	...	1
- (d) Travelling Allowance drawn by Non-official members is indicated below against each :—

1. Shri Achint Ram	Rs. 909-12-0
2. Shri Dev Raj Sethi	Rs. 1,410-8-0
- (e) Combined report by both Small Scale and Large Scale Committees will shortly be submitted. One part is ready, while the other is not yet complete.
- (f) Government will consider its recommendation but the extent to which they can be accepted will depend on the finances available.
- (g) The total expenditure incurred by Government on both large and small scale Committees up till 31-1-1950 was Rs. 30,982.

**COMMITTEE FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION
OF FORESTS**

362. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any committee for the better administration of Forests was appointed by the Government during the year 1948, if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by it during the years 1948, and 1949 separately ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee up till 31-1-50,
- (e) whether this committee has submitted its report to the Government, if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes in May, 1948.
 - (b) (i) Shri Jhunna Singh, I. F. S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab.
 - (ii) Shri N. P. Mohan, I. F. S. Conservator of Forests, now Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal.
 - (iii) Shri Sant Ram Varma, Deputy Secretary to Government, Punjab, now Director Civil Supplies, Punjab.
 - (c) 3 meetings were held in 1948.
None in 1949.
 - (d) nil
 - (e) Yes, the committee made suggestions for reorganisation of Department to effect economy and improve efficiency. The recommendations were accepted by Government.
-

FODDER AND GRAZING COMMITTEE

363. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee was appointed during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by it during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50, separately ;
- (d) whether any recommendations have been made by this committee to Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government ;
- (e) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the official members of this committee ;
- (f) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee ;

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The answer to this question is not yet ready it will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
UNIVERSITY TOWN IN THE NEW CAPITAL

364. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Committee on the Construction of a University building in the new Capital was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with this committee ;
- (c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, when ;
- (d) the nature of the recommendations made by it ;
- (e) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) None

(c) Yes. The report was submitted to Government on the 27th August, 1948,

(d) Among other things the committee recommended that the proposed University town with 5,000 acres of land should be within 6 to 15 miles of the new Capital with a water-front.

(e) The report was passed on to the Chief Engineer (Development) for comment. The recommendations will be considered in due course.

**APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING
ON INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS AND INDUSTRIAL
BUILDINGS IN THE NEW CAPITAL**

365. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any committee for reporting on industrial progress and industrial buildings in the new Capital was appointed by the Government ; if so, when ;

(b) the names of the members of this committee together with their full addresses ;

(c) the number of the meetings held by it ;

(d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the members of this committee ;

(e) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with this committee up till 31st January 1950 ;

(f) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the date thereof ;

(g) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. On the 14th October, 1948.

(Premier)

- (b) 1. S. M. L. G. and I.
- 2. Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Electricity Branch.
- 3. Director of Industries.
- 4. S. Ujjal Singh, M. L. A.
- 5. Seth Ram Narain Vermani.
- (c) No meeting was held.
- (d) None.
- (e) None.
- (f) First Part. No. Second part does not arise.
- (g) Does not arise.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON SOCIAL LIFE AND
RECREATION IN THE NEW CAPITAL

366. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Committee for reporting on social life and recreation in the new Capital was appointed by the Government in the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee together with their addresses ;
- (c) the travelling allowance drawn by each member up till 31-1-50 ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with this committee ;
- (e) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, when ;
- (f) the nature of the recommendation made ;
- (g) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes, on 26th July, 1948.
- (b) 1. Finance Secretary to Government, Punjab.
- 2. Secretary, P. W. D., B & R.
- 3. Secretary, Capital Committee.
- 4. Shree G. D. Sondhi, 89, Kotah House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
- 5. Shree S. N. Gupta, Rockery, Simla, E.

(c) No travelling allowance was drawn by any member, as the Committee did not meet at all.

(d) None.

(e) No. Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS IN THE NEW CAPITAL.

367 Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee for reporting on educational institutions in the new Capital was appointed by the Government ; if so, when ;

(b) the personnel of the committee together with their full addresses and the number of the meetings held by it up till 31. 1. 1950 ;

(c) the travelling allowance drawn by each member up til 31. 1. 1950.

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with this committee ;

(e) where the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, when ;

(f) the nature of the recommendations made ;

(g) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) Yes. A sub-Committee consisting of five members was formed in September, 1948.

(b) 1. Shri G. C. Chatterji, M.A., I.E.S., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

2. Dr. K. C. Khanna. M.A., Ph. D., Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

3. Miss V.G. Bhan, Deputy Directress of Public Instruction.

4. Dr. Trilochan Singh, M.A., Ph. D., Inspector of Vernacular Education.

5. R.B. Shri Sohan Lal, Retired Lecturer.

(Minister for Education)

The Committee held only one meeting on 26th March, 1949.

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

(e) Yes. On 4th April, 1949.

(f) The recommendation of the Committee are summarized below.

<i>Kind of Institutions</i>	<i>No. of Institutions</i>	<i>Land required</i>
1. Nursery Schools.	75	About 4 Kanals per school--30 acres.
2. Primary School.	34	About 2 acres per school--68 acres.
3. High Schools.	12	About 20 acres per school--240 acres.
4. Colleges for Boys.	1	100 acres.
Gir's.	1	100 acres.
5. Special type for Blind.	1 }	60 acres.
Deaf and Dumb.	1 }	
6. Training College for Men.	1 }	100 acres.
and Women.	1 }	
7. College for Physical Education.	1	50 acres.
8. Recreation centres.	2	20 acres.
Cultural Centres.	1	10 acres
Playgrounds.		25 acres
		per unit of a population of 5000.
9. School Medical Service.		10 acres.
10. Employment Bureau.	1	10 acres.
11. Polytechnic.	1	100 acres.

(g) The report of the Education sub-committee has not yet been considered by the Government.

COMMITTEE FOR HOUSING AND SHOPS.

368. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any committee for Housing and Shops was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so, when ?

- (b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee up till 31-1-1950 ;
- (c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, when ;
- (d) the nature of the recommendations made by it ;
- (e) the action, if any, taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) A Sub-Committee for Housing and Shops was appointed by the Government in December 1948

(b) to (e) As final decision to go ahead with the Capital Scheme has been taken only recently, no meeting of this sub-committee has been incurred by the Government on this account ; nor have any recommendations been made by the Sub-Committee.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON THE COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE LAND OWNERS AT THE SITE OF THE NEW CAPITAL

369. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any committee for reporting on the compensation and Rehabilitation of Land Owners at the site of the new Capital was appointed by the Government ; if so, when ;
- (b) the personnel of the committee ;
- (c) whether any expenditure has been incurred by the Government on this Committee ; if so, the total amount spent up till 31-1-1950 ;
- (d) whether the committee has submitted any report to the Government ; if so, when ;
- (e) the nature of the recommendations made by the Committee.
- (f) the action, if any, taken by the Government on the report of this Committee ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. On 16-8-48.
- (b) 1. S. Gurbux Singh, Under-Secretary-Revenue.
2. Mr. R. N. Dogra, Under-Secretary (Development) B. & R.
3. S. Balwant Singh, Under-Secretary, Rehabilitation.
- (c) No. Second part does not arise.
- (d) Yes. On 23-3-1949.

(e) A copy of an extract from the report containing the Committee's recommendations is enclosed.*

(f) The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR ADVANCE COURSES TRAINING

370. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any Selection Committee for Advance Courses Training was appointed by the Government; if so, when?

(b) the number of the departmental candidates selected by this committee during the years 1948 and 1949, separately.

(c) the number of the candidates so selected sent by the Government for training in advance courses at the institutes outside the province during the years 1948 and 1949, separately;

(d) whether any stipend has been sanctioned for these candidates; if so, the total amount spent in this connection so far;

(e) the total amount sanctioned for each candidate per month;

(f) the number of meetings held by the committee during the years 1948 and 1949, separately?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Yes. Selection Committees for advance courses in Agriculture and Veterinary Science were appointed in July and March, 1948 respectively.

(b)	Year	Agriculture	Veterinary
	1948	2	2
	1949	2	—

(c) Only the two candidates selected in 1948 for advance courses in Animal Husbandry could join the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar (U.P.) The candidates selected for advance training in Agriculture could not join the Institute for one reason or the other.

(d) No, Nil.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Each Selection Committee is required to meet only once a year.

* Kept in the Library

The Committee constituted for selecting candidates for advance training in Veterinary Science met once in 1948 only. As regards other Committee set up for the purposes of agriculture no meeting was held in 1948 and 1949, but the selection of candidates was made by circulating papers amongst the members of the committee with a view to avoid expenditure by Government.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY COMMITTEES

371. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the members of the Regional Transport Authority Committees for the Jullundur and the Ambala Divisions appointed by Government during the years 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50, respectively, together with their full addresses ;
- (b) the number of meetings held by them all up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (c) the number of the meetings attended by each member up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each member up till 31st January 1950 ?

Sardar Narotam Singh : The answer is laid on the Table*

FURNITURE IN THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSES OF HON. MINISTERS

372. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the total value of the furniture placed in the residential houses of each of the hon. Ministers at Simla on the 30th April 1949 and the 31st January 1950 respectively ;
- (b) the monthly rent of the furniture of each of the hon. Minister's residential houses at Simla for the months of March, 1948 September 1948 and April 1949 and January 1950 respectively ;
- (c) the monthly rent of the residential houses of each of the hon. Ministers at Simla for the months mentioned in part (b) above ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The total value of the furniture supplied by Punjab Government in the residential houses of each of the hon. Ministers on the 30th April 1949 and the 31st January 1950 is given below :—

* Kept in the Library.

(Chief Minister)

	30th April 49	31st Jany. 1950
	Rs.	Rs.
(i) Allan Bank (Residence of the hon. Chief Minister)	11,846	11,846
(ii) Victoria Place (Residence of the hon. Minister for Labour)	2,012	2,217
(iii) Charlie Villa (Residence of the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation)	4,305	7,381
(iv) Brockhurst No. 1 (Residence of the hon. Minister for Education)	5,569	5,829
(v) Brockhurst No. 2 (Residence of the hon. Minister for Development)	5,009	6,592

(b) The monthly rent of the furniture of each of the hon. Minister's residential houses at Simla for the months of March 48, Sept. 48, April 49, and January 1950 is as under :

	March 48.	Sept. 48	April 49	Jany. 50
(i) Allan Bank	07/11	207/11	207/11	207/11
(ii) Victoria Place	30/5	30/5	30/5	32/4
(iii) Charlie Villa	70/7	70/7	70/7	108/14
(iv) Brockhurst No. 1	62/2	62/3	69/10	72/14
(v) Brockhurst No. 2	53/4	56/4	62/10	82/6

All the furniture referred to above, is old one belonging to Government and nothing new has been purchased.

(c) The monthly rent of the residential houses of each of the hon. Ministers at Simla for the months mentioned in para. (b) above is as follows :

	March 48	Sept. 48	April 49	Jany. 50
(i) Allan Bank	274/2	274/2	274/2	274/2
(ii) Victoria Place	250/-	250/-	250/-	250/-
(iii) Charlie Villa	333/6	333/6	333/6	333/6
(iv) Brockhurst No. 1	277/1	277/1	277/1	277/1
	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis
	court	court	court	court
(v) Brockhurst	11/9	311/9	311/9	311/9
No. 2	9/6	9/6	9/6	9/6
	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis
	court	court	court	court

SPECIAL POLICE STAFF.

373. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the date on which the special police staff for the recovery of the abducted muslim girls and women was first appointed in each district of the East Punjab ;
- (b) the name of the officer incharge and his rank in each district since the organisation of the staff upto 2-12-49.
- (c) the number of the abducted girls, women and children recovered in each district up to 2-12-1949 ;
- (d) whether any commendatory certificates, rewards, promotions or compensations in any other form were given to any of the officers engaged on the job ; if so, their list and the nature of the reward sanctioned.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) On the 10th December, 1947.
- (b) A statement ' giving the required information is laid on the table.*
- (c) A statement ' showing the number of abducted women and children recovered in each district is laid on the table.'
- (d) A statement showing the commendation certificates and rewards granted to various police officers employed on the Recovery Staff is laid on the table.* Besides, Shri Surindra Nath, Deputy Superintendent of Police, employed on this work in the West Punjab, was granted an Indian Police Medal. No officer was promoted merely on account of the work done by him in the Recovery Staff.

PROVINCIAL CONSUMERS OF COAL IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

374. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names together with their full addresses of the persons who were enlisted as Provincial Consumers of Coal in the district of Amritsar during the period from 15-8-47 to 31-12-49 ;

* Kept in the Library.

(Sardar Sajjan Singh)

- (b) whether any of the persons mentioned in part (a) above was already on the list of the District Coal Consumers of the Amritsar district during the aforesaid period ; if so, the reasons for the change made ;
- (c) whether any of the persons referred to in part (a) or (b) above was the owner of any brick kiln ;
- (d) the quantity of coal allowed to each of the provincial and district consumers during the aforesaid period ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) A statement giving the requisite information is enclosed.*

(b) The firms mentioned at items (1) to (6) in the enclosed statement were on the list of the District Coal Consumers. They were brought on the Provincial list as their assessment of coal/coke was three wagons or more per annum.

(c) No.

(d) The quantity of coal/coke allowed to the consumers mentioned at (a) above is given in column 3 and 4 of the statement enclosed. As regards district consumers, Government regret that the labour involved in collecting the information would be incommensurate with the results which may be achieved.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON THE POPULATION OF THE NEW CAPITAL

375. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any committee for reporting on the population of the new capital was appointed during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the name of the members of this committee ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by it so far ;
- (d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of its non-official members up to 31-1-50.
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted any report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government on this report ;
- (f) the expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee up to now ?

* Kept in the Library

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. 16th August, 1948.
- (b) 1. Chief Engineer (Development) B. & R
2. Director of Industries.
3. One representative of F.C.R.R.
4. Registrar, Punjab University.
5. Seth Sudarshan, M.L.A.
- (c) Only one meeting was held on 18-4-1949.
- (d) Rs. 65/8/- drawn by the Registrar, Punjab University.
- (e) Only a brief interim report was submitted by the Committee, its final report is awaited. Does not arise.
- (f) Rs. 65/8/- only.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON HEALTH AND
MEDICAL IN THE NEW CAPITAL

376. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) Whether any Committee for reporting on Health and Medical in the new Capital was formed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee together with their addresses ;
- (c) the travelling allowance drawn by each of these members up to 31-1-1950 ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Committee ;
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendation made ;
- (f) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. 28th August, 1948.
- (b) 1. Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.
2. Director of Public Health.
3. Lt. Colonel Amir Chand, I.M.S., (Retired)
4. S. Shiv Saran Singh, M.L.A.
5. A representative of the Finance Department.

(Chief Minister)

(c) No travelling allowance was drawn by any member as the committee as such did not meet.

(d) None.

(e) Yes. A copy of the report containing recommendations is enclosed *

(f) The report was passed on to CE (Development) for comments. The recommendations will be taken into consideration in due course.

EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

377. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any Employment Advisory Committees have been appointed by the Government ; if so, when they were appointed.

(b) the number and personnel of each of these committees.

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with these committees during the years 1948 and 1949 separately ;

(d) the number of the meetings held by each of these committees during the years 1948 and 1949 separately,

(e) the travelling allowance drawn by each member up to 31-1-50

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) (i) No.

(ii) do not arise.

(b) |
(c) | do not arise.
(d) |
(e) :

CANAL MINOR IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR

378. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new canal minor was constructed to irrigate the lands of village Dall and village Wan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, during the year 1949 ;

* Kept in the Library

- (b) the number of the canal outlets sanctioned for villages Dall and wan respectively ;
- (c) the area under the command of each of the outlets along with the authorised volume of discharge of each of these outlets ;
- (d) whether during the year 1949 the actual volume of discharge of these outlets was recorded ; if so, the date or dates of inspection of each of those outlets and the actual volume of discharge recorded each time during 1949 ;
- (e) the area actually irrigated by each of those outlets during rabi 1949-50 ;
- (f) whether or not the area actually irrigated in village Dall was less than the permissible area ; if so, the reasons therefor and what steps, if any, Government proposes to take to make up the deficiency in the area irrigated ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 4 outlets for village Dall and 2 tail outlets for village Wan.
- (c) and (e) The information is placed on the table *
- (d) Yes, observations were made on 9-12-49 and found as per authorised,
- (f) Yes, on the 3 outlets under Serial Nos. 2, 3, and 4 of the statement. It is due to the fact that the area of village Dall is very high and all the watercourses were not dug by the shareholders. The shareholders also did not stick to any Warabandi with the result that even low land with a good command was not irrigated.

These outlets started functioning for the first time in Rabi 1949-50. The total irrigation of these outlets is 751 acres against 763 acres permissible and it is likely to improve next crop.

* Kept in the Library.

BRICK KILNS IN BEAS AREA

379. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area within the jurisdiction of the Beas Police Station, District Amritsar in which brick kilns were allowed to work during the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;
- (b) the quantity of coal supplied to each of the aforesaid kilns during each year at controlled rates ;
- (c) whether Government entered into contracts with the owners of the kilns for the supply of bricks at fixed rates ; if so, the nature of the contracts entered into ;
- (d) the number of bricks purchased by the Government from each kiln during each of the years mentioned in (a) above ;
- (e) the number of bricks made at each of the kilns during each of the aforesaid year ;
- (f) the rates fixed, if any, for the first and second class bricks per thousand for sale to Government and the public respectively during each year ;
- (g) the names of the respective owners of the kilns together with their full addresses ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Government do not demarcate areas in which brick kilns are allowed to work.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) Do not arise.

(f) The rates fixed in the Amritsar district in the end of 1949 were Rs. 31/- and Rs. 25/- for first class and second class bricks respectively for public and the Government.

CASES OF MURDER, DACOITY, ETC.

380. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

- (a) the number of murder, dacoity, burglary, theft, rape and other criminal cases registered at the different Police Stations of each district in the province during the year 1949 ;

- (b) the number of cases in each of the above categories which were traced and sent up for trial in each district during the year 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table *

LOANS TO DISPLACED PERSONS

381. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

- (a) the names of the displaced persons in the Amritsar district with their full home addresses, who have been granted loans by the Government between (i) Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 (ii) Rs. 2,001 and Rs. 3,000; (iii) Rs. 3,001 and 4,000, (iv) Rs. 4,001 and Rs. 5,000 and (v) of more than Rs. 5,000 ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) The time and trouble involved in collecting the information in respect of the names together with addresses of the persons who have been advanced loans in Amritsar District will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained and it is not in the public interest to collect the information.

However the No. of displaced persons who have been advanced loans is laid on the table :—

(i) From Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 2,000/-	250
(ii) From Rs. 2,001/- to Rs. 3,000/-	3
(iii) From Rs. 3,001/- to Rs. 4,000/-	2
(iv) From Rs. 4,001/- to Rs. 5,000/-	13
(v) of more than Rs. 5,000/-	Nil by the Punjab Government.

PUNISHMENTS TO CONSTABLES, HEAD-CONSTABLES AND ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE, ETC.

382. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

- (a) the number of Head-Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors, Deputy

* Kept in the Library

[S. Sajjan Singh]

Superintendents and Superintendents of Police who were awarded punishment of any kind during the year 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;

- (b) the number of police constables who were punished on any account during each of the years mentioned in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a)

	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
Superintendents of Police	—	—	—
Dy. Superintendents of Police	—	—	—
Inspectors:	—	6	1
Sub-Inspectors	37	48	80
Asstt. Sub-Inspectors.	33	36	77
Head Constables.	69	146	164

Complete records are not available for 1946-47, i.e. pre-partition period.

(b) Foot Constables 616 1,345 1,666.

MUSLIM MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES, ETC.

383. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing —

- (a) the number of Muslim members of Municipal Committees, District Boards, Small Town Committees and Notified Area Committees, respectively who migrated to Pakistan during the year 1947-48 in each district of the Jullundur Division ;
- (b) the number of vacancies thus caused and the number of vacancies filled through nominations by the Government ;
- (c) the number of refugees nominated in each of the aforesaid local bodies in each district ;
- (d) the number of non-refugees nominated in each of the aforesaid local bodies in each district ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) to (d) A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the table.¹

* Kept in the Library.

MUSLIM MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES, ETC.

384. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of the Muslim members of the Municipal Committees, District Boards, Small Town Committees and Notified Area Committees who migrated to Pakistan during 1947-48 respectively in each of the districts of Ambala Division ;
- (b) the number of the persons nominated in each of the local bodies of each district with the following particulars ; (i) the number of the refugees nominated (ii) the number of the non-refugee members ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

A statement containing the requisite information is attached.*

PUNITIVE POLICE POST IN VILLAGE AUJLA,
DISTRICT GURDASPUR

385. Sardar Shiv Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a punitive police was posted at village Aujla, Tehsil and district Gurdaspur, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the total number of crimes, like murders, dacoities and thefts committed in said village during the last four years ;
- (c) the total number of bad characters in the said village according to the police record ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that this punitive police post has been located in connection with the tampering with the railway line ;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the place where the mischief to the railway line was done is in the jurisdiction of the Gurdaspur town ;
- (f) whether the police suspects any individual of the village in connection with the incident referred to in part (e) above ?

* Kept in the Library.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. The post was located because the railway line was tampered with.

(b) The statistics of crime committed during the last four years are as follows :—

Year	Murders	Dacoities	Thefts	Robberies
1946
1947	3	...
1948	2	..
1949	3	1

(c) Threaz.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) Yes. He is being helped by the other villagers.

ELECTRIC POWER CONTROL BOARD

386. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any 'Electric Power Control Board' was appointed by the Government between 15th August 1947 and 31st January 1950 ; if so, when ;

(b) the names of its members ;

(c) the number of the meetings held by it during the years 1948 and 1949, respectively ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Board up till 31st January 1950 ;

(e) the travelling allowance drawn by each of its non-official members ;

(f) the number of applications regarding electric connections for house-hold consumption and the factory working received by this Board from 15th August 1947 to 31st January 1950 ;

(g) the number of such applications sanctioned by the Government on the advice of this Board ;

(h) the number of such applications rejected by the Government on the recommendation of this Board ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

COMMITTEE FOR FACTORY INDUSTRIES

387. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any Committee for large-scale Factory Industries was appointed during the year 1948 ; if so, when ;
- (b) the names of the members of this committee ;
- (c) the number of the meetings held by it during the years
• 1948 and 1949, separately ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this committee up till 31st January 1950 ;
- (e) the travelling allowances drawn by each of the non-official members of this committee up till 31st January
• 1950 ;
- (f) whether any report has been submitted by this committee to the Government ; if so the action taken or propose to be taken by the Government on these recommendations ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

Yes. Large Scale Industries Committee was constituted by the Government on the 21st February, 1948.

(b) The names of the members which represented the Committee are given below :

1. Shri Jag Raj Bhalla, Chairman.
2. Shri Ujjal Singh, M.L.A.
3. Shri Ajit Singh, M.L.A.
4. Shri Behari Lal Chanana, M L.A.
5. Shri Ganga Saran, M.L.A.
6. Shri Inder Singh, M.L.A.
7. Shri Bhagwan Dass, M.L.A.
8. Shri I. P. Anand.
9. Shri Sapuran Singh Chawla.
10. Shri Harbhajan Singh.
11. Shri Gurdial Singh.
12. Shri A. R. Uberoi.

(Minister for Development.)

13. Shri H. R. Bhatia, P.W.D., Electricity.
14. Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Irrigation.
15. A representative of the Forest Department.
16. Director of Industries, Punjab.

(c) Number of meetings held :

1948	...	...	7
1949	...	...	1

(d) The total expenditure incurred by Government on both the large and small scale committees up till 31st January, 1950 was Rs. 30,982.

(e) The travelling allowance drawn by the non-official members is indicated below against each :

1. Shri Jag Raj Bhalla.	...	...	527
2. Shri Ujjal Singh, M.L.A.	...	...	1,479
3. Shri Ajit Singh, M.L.A.	...	...	299
4. Shri Behari Lal Chanana, M.L.A.	..	..	1,658
5. Shri Ganga Saran, M.L.A.	...	...	511
6. Shri Inder Singh, M.L.A.	...	...	438
7. Shri I. P. Anand	...	...	1,971
8. Shri Sapuran Singh Chawla	...	...	1,479
9. Shri Harbhajan Singh	...	...	204
10. Shri Gurdial Singh	...	...	240

(f) An interim report was sent by the Chairman to hon. Minister for Development in 1948. The final meeting of the Board took place in 1949. One part of the report is under print while the other has not yet been prepared in final form and is awaited.

COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON THE BUILDING OF LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT IN THE NEW CAPITAL.

388. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Committee for reporting on the building of the legislative department in the new Capital was appointed by Government ; if so, when ;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government so far in connection with this committee ;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made and the date thereof ;

(d) the action taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. On 15th November, 1948.

(b) No expenditure has been incurred.

(c) First part No. Second part does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING ON
THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH COURT IN THE
NEW CAPITAL.

389 Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any committee for reporting on the construction of the High Court Building in the new Capital was appointed by the Government during the year 1948 ; if so when ;

(b) the personnel of this committee ;

(c) the travelling allowance drawn by each member of this committee ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Committee :

(e) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government ; if so, the nature of the recommendations made :

(f) the action, if any, taken by the Government on this report ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. In August, 1948.

(b) (1) The Hon. Chief Justice.

(2) The Hon. Mr. Justice Teja Singh.

(3) The Hon. Mr. Justice A.N. Bhandari.

(4) Shri Dev Raj Sahni, Barrister-at-law.

(5) Shri Bhagirath Dass, Advocate.

(c) No travelling allowance was drawn.

(Chief Minister)

- (d) None.
- (e) Copies of the replies to the questionnaire were received and passed on to C. E. (Dev.) for comments.
- (f) These replies will be considered in due course.

DEPARTMENTAL AND JUDICIAL BILLS OF POLICE STATIONS IN PATTI TEHSIL

390. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of expenditure for October 1949 incurred by each of the police stations of Patti Tehsil in the Amritsar district on account of departmental and judicial bills ;
- (b) whether in any of these police stations the bills of the aforesaid month ever exceeded the imprest money ; if so, to what extent in each police station ;
- (c) how the police officers of these police stations managed to meet the extra amounts for the aforesaid month ;
- (d) the dates on which amounts on account of the aforesaid bills were sent to recoup the imprest money for that month.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) }
 (b) } The statement giving the requisite information is
 (c) }
 and (d) } given below :—

Sl. No.	Name of	Answer of (a).	Answer of (b)	Answer of (c)	Answer of (d)	
	Police Station					
1	Patti	511/4/-	421/4/-	From their own pocket till recoupment.	6/12/- 504/8/-	10-10-49 18-10-49
2	Bhikhi-wind	32/8/-	...	...	24/6/- 8/2/-	23-11-49 10-1-50

3	Khalra	119/11/-	69/11/-	From their own pocket till recoup- ment.	119/11/-	1-11-49 19-11-49
4	Valtoha	107/13/-	47/13/-	do	65/5/- 11/11/- 30/13/-	18-10-49. 7-12-49 24-12-49

IMPREST MONEY

391. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the expenditure of the different police stations in the Amritsar district during the months of June and July 1948 was more than 12 times the imprest money provided for the aforesaid months; if so, what arrangements were made to meet this extra amount and from where the amount was obtained to pay up the extra expenses ;
- (b) the total amount spent by the different police stations of the Amritsar district on account of the judicial and departmental bills separately for the months of June and July 1949, respectively ;
- (c) the time taken by the district authorities to sanction the judicial bills and send the same to the respective police stations regarding these months ;
- (d) the total amount sent during June and July 1949 on account of judicial bills ;
- (e) the total amount sent during August 1949 on account of such bills ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

ACTION AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS

Secretary : Statement showing action taken against corrupt officials in East Punjab during the period 1-1-48 to 31-12-48 is laid on the table.*

POINT OF ORDER RE-SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS AND
ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : On a point of order, Sir, I submit that all the proceedings that were conducted in this Chamber yesterday must not be incorporated in the proceedings of this Assembly, on account of the fact that the business of oath-taking which was transacted yesterday morning, was not the business of the House. Similarly the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor was not the business of the House. Under these circumstances, the proceedings of yesterday's meeting cannot become part of the official record of proceedings of the Assembly. In support of this point of order of mine, Sir, I draw your attention to the notification issued by the Secretary of your Department under Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure. This notification states that the Punjab Legislative Assembly shall meet at the Assembly Chamber at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 6th March, 1950. The Assembly, according to this notification, should have met at 11 a.m. on the 6th March. But it did not hold any meeting at that time. You, Sir, yourself remarked yesterday that the Members, unless they took oath, could not sit in the House. So the Members cannot be deemed to have met as a House in yesterday's meetings. The business that was transacted yesterday in the morning, was under Article 188 of the Constitution and it cannot be considered to be the business of the House. The administering of oath is the business of the Governor and to advise him is the business of the Government. In all this business, I am sorry to say, Government has completely bungled.

* Kept in the Library.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No such remarks. I will ask the hon. Member to withdraw those words.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Let him finish. He has also raised a point of order.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : In this connection, Sir, I want to draw your attention to Article 188 of the Constitution Act. It lays down :

Every Member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of a State shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

My submission is that the business conducted by you in the meeting held yesterday in the morning was done not in the capacity of Speaker but in the capacity of an officer appointed in that behalf by the Governor, or in your personal capacity as Sardar Kapoor Singh. The business thus transacted could not have anything to do with the business of the House, just as the holding and conducting of elections of the Members, can have no connection with the Assembly. Nobody, who has not taken an oath, can sit in a meeting of the Assembly, under the Constitution. The administering of oath to the Members, cannot be done in a meeting of the House and anybody who without sanction attends a meeting of the Assembly is liable to pay penalty of Rs. 500/- per sitting. The business of administering the oath must precede the official business of the House. I, therefore, contend that yesterday's business was that of the Executive. The Governor could appoint anybody to administer the oath to the hon. Members. You, Sir, yourself, remarked yesterday that no Member could attend a meeting of the House without having taken the oath.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I did not say that. What I said was that the business of the House could not be transacted unless the Members took the oath.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I submit, Sir, that no Member, unless he has taken the oath, can participate in the proceedings

of the Assembly. I therefore want to know whether there was any Member, excepting you, who had taken the oath prior to the taking of oath by the hon. Deputy Speaker yesterday. Even the five brethren who could sit in that meeting, could not do so as Members. Their position was that of the Advocate General who can participate in the proceedings of the House but cannot vote. These *Panj Piaras*.....

(*Interruption*)

Mr. Speaker : No question of '*Panj Piaras*'

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : He should not be allowed to make any such remarks. He should withdraw them.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am afraid I have been misunderstood. I did not use those words in the sense understood by my hon. Friends. I am, however, prepared to withdraw them. I wanted to know whether the business of oath-taking could be the official business of the House. If that was the business of the Executive, it cannot become part of the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Two points have been raised by the hon. Member. His first point is that the meeting of the House which was held at 11 a.m. on the 6th March was not a regular meeting of the Assembly. The hon. Member is aware that the Governor summoned the Assembly under Art. 174 of the Constitution to meet at 11 a.m. on the 6th March and fixed the agenda for that meeting. The hon. Member seems to be under the impression that the Governor appointed me to administer the oath which the hon. Members of the Assembly were required to take in my personal capacity. I will, for the information of the House, read the letter which was sent by the Governor in that connection which runs :—

In exercise of the powers vested in me under Art. 188 of the Constitution of India, I, Chandulal Madhavalal Trivedi, Governor of the Punjab State, hereby appoint the Honourable Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to administer an oath or affirmation to every member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, before he/she takes his/her seat in the said Assembly.

Thus the hon. Member will see that I was appointed to administer the oath not in my personal capacity, but in my

capacity as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Had any person in his individual capacity been appointed for the purpose, the case would have been different and there would have been some force in the hon. Member's argument, but the fact of the matter, as I have already said, is that I was appointed to discharge that duty as the Speaker of the Assembly and not in my individual capacity. My view, therefore, is that since the Governor summoned the Assembly to meet on the 6th March and the agenda was fixed also for that day—the agenda being that the Members of the Assembly would take the oath before the Speaker—that meeting was a regular meeting of the House and was quite legal and proper and there is no reason why that meeting should be treated as if it was a gathering of the Members outside the Assembly as has been contended by the hon Member. The House having completed the agenda set out for that particular meeting adjourned till today without question put.

As regards taking of seats by the Members before taking the oath, the spirit of the rule is that the business of the House cannot be transacted and the Members cannot take part in any debate or exercise their vote before taking the oath. It does not mean that they cannot come inside the Chamber or occupy their seats.

Now I come to the second point raised by Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. His contention is that the address of the Governor should not form part of the proceedings of the House. Under the Constitution the Governor has a right to address the Assembly or the Legislative Council—where one exists—or both the Houses of Legislature. Nobody can question that right. As to whether that was a regular meeting of the Assembly, I myself had a feeling while the Governor was addressing this House whether I was there as the Speaker of the Assembly or as an ordinary Member. However, the contention of the hon. Member that the Governor's Address should not form part of the proceedings of the Assembly does not seem to me tenable since the Governor addressed this House in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and if it is not to form part of the proceedings of the House, how can we discuss it today? As to the objection of the hon. Member as to why the Governor addressed after

(Mr. Speaker)

the adjournment of its first meeting, I think the Governor could address the Assembly the same day or the next day as he chose. He addressed the Assembly the same day to save time and for the purpose of economy. I therefore rule that the meeting of the Assembly at 11 a.m. on the 6th March was a regular and legally constituted meeting of the House and the Address of His Excellency the Governor which he was pleased to deliver at 3 p.m. should form part of the Assembly proceedings.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I am thankful to you for having explained the whole position to me. After your ruling I have no right to raise my voice as regards the first part. As regards the second part, however, I draw your attention to Articles 174 and 176 of the Constitution. My contention is that there is no address of the Governor to the Assembly as required by Art. 176 and therefore there should be no resolution which is sought to be moved by Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. Yesterday when the Governor was here, he had invited us as he could invite us to the Barnes Court for a cup of tea. To me there appears to be no difference between a meeting in the Barnes Court and the one which took place here yesterday—perhaps the only difference is that while in the Barnes Court we would have been given tea and we did not give any tea to the Governor here. It was just a social gathering. It was not an address to the Legislative Assembly as such but to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. If you will kindly refer to Art. 174 of the Constitution you will find :—

The House or Houses of the Legislature of the State shall be summoned to meet twice at least in every year, and six months shall not intervene between their last sitting in one session and the date appointed for their first sitting in the next session.

Now which is the first sitting of the session? As you have held, the meeting which took place at 11 a.m. yesterday was the first sitting. Now under Art. 176 :—

At the commencement of every session, the Governor shall address the Legislative Assembly.

My contention is that the Governor must address the Assembly at the commencement of every session and that could not be postponed to any time subsequent to the commencement

of the session. At the commencement of the session of the Assembly, the first item should have been the address of the Governor to the Assembly. Since that was not done and the Assembly was adjourned till today and the meeting that took place at 3 p.m. was not a regular meeting of the Assembly, my submission is that the Governor did not address the Legislative Assembly as such and therefore there is no address before the Assembly on which a discussion can take place today. As I have already said what took place on the afternoon of the 6th March should not form part of the proceedings of the Assembly.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is unnecessarily laying stress on the words "at the commencement of every session". I have already given my ruling. It was perfectly open to the Governor to address the Assembly on the opening day or the second day. As I have held that the address of His Excellency the Governor should form part of the Assembly proceedings, the matter ends.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Member will not agree to what you say. (*Laughter*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The difficulty with the hon. Member is that he is emphasising only the first part of Art. 176 of the Constitution. He should look to the second part also. In my opinion the Article does not mean that even before taking the oath by the members the Governor should have come in and addressed the House. I do not agree with this view of the hon. Member.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : What I submit is that the Government should have seen to it that the Members took the oath of office before the Governor came to deliver his address.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member has already admitted that the first part of yesterday's proceedings, i.e., the meeting of the Assembly at 11 A.M. was in order.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I have to abide by your ruling Sir.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I hold that the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held yesterday was in order and the address of His Excellency the Governor should form part of the proceedings of the Assembly and at the same time hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt has a right to move the motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor. I call upon him to move his motion.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North Eastern Towns, General, Urban)
(Hindi) : Sir, I move—

That the members of this House assembled in this session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

This motion happens to be of a great vital importance. Through this motion it is intended to convey our thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he delivered yesterday in this august House. The responsibility of moving this Resolution has fallen on my weak as well as rebellious shoulders. I have used the word 'rebellious' because the existing conditions in our country in general and in our State in particular have created a sort of restlessness in my mind and it is because of this fact that rebellious ideas crop up in my mind. Therefore in this atmosphere and also with this rebellious nature in me, it is really a big and a very responsible job to maintain equilibrium of mind while discussing this delicate and important matter. It is for the first time that after the inauguration of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India, Addresses are delivered by the constitutional Heads to the State Legislative Assemblies and to the Parliament. It is also a very responsible job to have one's say in reply to such an address and this is quite an innovation as this practice was not in vogue before in any Legislative Assembly. It will not be out of place to mention here this fact that yesterday Sardar Abnasha Singh, the able and experienced Secretary of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, told me that according to the traditions of the British Parliament, after the Address of the King in the house of Commons, the moving of the motion of thanks is a great honour and privilege. As a matter of fact I deem it a great honour and privilege to move this motion of thanks. While taking this heavy responsibility upon my shoulders to move this motion, I expect from His Excellency and the Government that they will appreciate my feelings and also try to translate into action the suggestions which I am going to put forward in the course of my speech.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : We will appreciate the feelings of the hon. Member.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Before I express my views, I wish to point out that we are very fortunate in having an efficient and able Governor. By saying this I am not in the least observing any formalities. In my opinion there will be very few Governors of his calibre in India.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma ; How many I.C.S. Governors are there in India ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I would request the hon. Member not to interrupt me while I am speaking.

Mr. Speaker : No interruption please.

Chaudhri Krishana Gopal Dutt ; His Excellency the Governor has passed through many stages of administrative life. He has attained much experience.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. When praises can be showered on His Excellency the Governor, may I know if criticisms can also be advanced against him ?

Mr. Speaker : It would be better if the hon. Member discusses Government policy.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : And not the Governor's personality.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Since the formation of this post-partitioned province and now a State, we have had no opportunity to appreciate the work of His Excellency the Governor. Since he has delivered his address in this august House.

(Interruptions)

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member discuss the ruling of the Chair ?

Mr. Speaker : Well if he does so I will see to it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is he the only capable Governor ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : This practice of paying tributes to the constitutional Heads has been adopted for the first time in the Legislative Assemblies and in the Parliament,

(Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt)

(Interruptions).

I do not feel any necessity to say anything in reply to those of my hon. Friends who have no control over their mind, and it has always been a habit with them to resort to such practices. Here I cannot do without saying this that when they came in to power their attitude was quite different from the present one. I wish to submit that I have raised discussion on a very important matter and this discussion is quite different from the one which we raise on the Budget. I am really constrained to remark that such objections have been raised today which according to traditions could have been raised during the discussion on the Budget. In fact such objections should not be raised when the Address of His Excellency the Governor is under the discussion of the House. However, there is no doubt about it that in certain aspects the Address reads more like a Budget speech. It is but meet and proper on our part to avoid raising such points at this stage. In fact these points can be raised at the opportune time or, in other words, when discussion is raised on the Budget or when the Demands for Grants are brought under discussion.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Member as to how much time he would like to have for his speech ? I find that he has already taken 10 minutes and he is still making preliminary remarks. I feel that a time limit for speeches should be fixed.

Hon. Members : Yes. There should be a time limit.

Mr. Speaker : There are twenty amendments given notice of by twelve or thirteen hon. Members. If these amendments are taken up one by one, then I am sure that we will not be able to dispose of more than three or four. I would therefore like to adopt a procedure by which we might be able to discuss all the amendments and at the same time as many Members as possible may be able to take part in the discussion.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I suggest that half an hour be given to the hon. Mover of the resolution and other Members may be given fifteen minutes each.

Mr Speaker : Yes, I think half an hour for the mover should be quite enough.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I do not think I will be able to finish my speech within half an hour.

Mr. Speaker : I might give him a concession of a few minutes more.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : For example, the Address contained a review of the past doings of the Government and gave a number of facts and figures in this connection. This is not the proper occasion to criticize or discuss them. An Address lays down a statement of policy to be followed by the Government. So far as the future policy of the Government is outlined in the Address, we can express our views thereon. As regards the past doings, we shall have ample time to criticize the acts of omission and commission of the Government when the Budget will be under discussion. On this occasion, speeches can be made from two points of view. So far as my speech is concerned, it will have two parts. In the first part I shall commend the Address in so far as my views are in agreement with the future policy of the Government indicated therein. In the second part, I shall deal with the suggestions that I would like to make with regard to the future policy of the Government. I admit that there can be difference of opinion on any and every thing. A policy which appeals strongly to one set of people may not find favour with the other set. It is but natural that the persons who spend a lot of their time on the study of questions of public interest and who are keen observers of Governmental policies, should many a time find themselves holding views and opinions different from those of the Government. It is indeed desirable that they should frankly and fully express what they feel, on the floor of this House. But it is a pity that the atmosphere here is not conducive to this sort of frank and full expression of views. Whether it is the Governor's Address or any Budget demand or any Government measure that is under discussion, the supporters of the Government must support and endorse it and express perfect agreement with it. On the other hand, the tendency of the opponents is to oppose any and every measure that is sponsored by the Government, no matter whether it is a statement of policy or a Budget demand. No doubt, the conventions of parliamentary system of democracy will take time to develop in this country. We should however, make it a guiding principle that we should consider everything on its merits alone. So far as the debate on the Address is concerned, I don't think it should be carried on, on the usual lines on which the discussion on the

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Budget takes place. An Address is just a declaration of policy. So while speaking on this motion, we need not and as a matter of fact should not dwell on the details of administration. We should avoid criticism of the administrative details on this occasion. I for one will abstain from it and would request my friends also to do the same. We should better utilize our time as well as the time of the House in expressing our views about the broad outlines of policy indicated in the Address.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether it is part of your job to direct the proceedings of the House or that of my hon. Friend ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I can always make a suggestion, Sir. I have seen the notices of amendments to my motion and I was just trying to anticipate what my hon. Friends who have given these notices, would be inclined to speak about. I don't say that anybody can prevent them from saying what they like. It was purely from a disinterested motive that I made these suggestions. But if any of my Friends have such sensitive minds as to abhor the very idea of having any suggestion, I ask their forgiveness.

The first and foremost point which I would like to dwell upon is the fact mentioned in the Address that the Government succeeded in fulfilling its primary duty, i.e., the restoration and maintenance of peace and order in this province or to use the new terminology 'this State'. The fact that H. E. the Governor in his Address gave priority to this problem, is not without significance. I don't think there can be any difference of opinion about the primary importance of this problem, though there may be difference about the method and manner of solving it. Surely no criticism is called for, so far as the attaching of vital importance to this problem is concerned. Reference to this thing in the Address cannot be considered as an opportunity to criticize the doings of the previous Governments or the manner in which the Police behaved or misbehaved in the past. None can deny that the maintenance of law and order is vital for the very existence of the State. It is its *raison d'être*. It is indeed our good fortune that after the partition, so horrible and dreadful as its consequences were, we in this State have been moving and going about our work free from any fear and find ourselves living in peace. On this wise handling of the situation, I feel like congratulating our people and our Government.

Secondly, I would take up the policy of the Government with regard to organizing village Panchayats and endowing them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. A mention of it has been made in the concluding portion of the Governor's Address. I accept in general the policy of the Government to bring forward such a legislative measure in the province. This will certainly be a step in the right direction to secure a social order for the promotion and welfare of the village people. In view of the customs that are in vogue in India, the establishment of Panchayats in every village would mitigate the hardships of the rural citizens. I would strongly advocate the establishment of Panchayat Raj in India, and it is gratifying to know that the Congress Government has decided to establish Panchayat Raj in the States. The proposed Bill will have to pass through many stages and the hon. Members will be free to direct any criticism and recommend changes in the draft Bill as they consider proper. But I may say that by passing this Bill we shall be able to reconstruct an ideal village in free India functioning properly under modern conditions. Panchayats will be organised in every village and all internal disputes of the rural citizens will be settled by the administrative machinery under the Panchayat system. In conditions as they are now in our villages, the poor zamindar has to go to the city in connection with his cases of petty thefts and other disputes and spend money which he can ill-afford in circumstances of poverty. In many villages there is little journeying in vehicles and the poor fellow has to move on foot for twenty miles to attend the court. In this way his fields remain neglected and unlooked for which he does at the risk of impairing the productivity of the soil. On attending the courts these poor people are further fleeced by the pleaders and being financially weak and with lack of education they are fully exploited by these people. If Panchayats are established in every village, the Government will earn the gratitude of these people for ever. These Panchayats should be invested with judicial and executive powers and if the Government gives practical shape to this scheme it will not be an exaggeration to say that it will increase the health and vitality of the village as a whole. Moreover, it will check the advance of communism in our State. In my opinion it will be the greatest achievement of the time if our Government establishes Panchayat Raj in our State. I earnestly wish that the Government's effort in this direction may be crowned with success. I also trust

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that the proposed measure will have the full measure of support from all Members in this House.

I would now like to draw the attention of the House to another important matter *i.e.* the site for the new Capital near Chandigarh. I know that many of my hon. Friends will have different opinions in this matter. Such difference of opinion is bound to exist in the democratic system of Government. As a matter of fact we should have due regard for dissenting opinions that are expressed on the floor of this House. I can well anticipate some of the objections that may be advanced against Chandigarh but keeping in view all the aspects, I am in favour of Chandigarh being made the Capital of the province. I confess that I am not a Town Planner nor do I understand military strategy but I strongly feel that no better place for building a capital could be found from these points of view. I know that there was a great agitation against this selection and some people were in favour of Ambala and some advocated the cause of Jullundur to be made the Capital of the East Punjab. But I feel sorry to remark that such people are guided by the influences of local patriotism, than by the real interests of the province. The decision to locate the Capital at this place, was reached with the consent of military and Government of India experts. I would not, therefore, like to enter into any discussion on this point and agree *in toto* to what has been said in the Address of His Excellency the Governor.

I would now offer my thanks to His Excellency the Governor who, having given top priority to the vital task of maintaining law and order in the State, has placed the task of rehabilitation of refugees as number two on the list of urgent works that await the Government. I must appreciate the steps that have been taken by the Government to give relief to these people and think that the Government has undoubtedly done much to rehabilitate them. It is also a cheering sign that the vast majority of the rural section of the displaced persons have been allotted land on quasi-permanent basis. The Government has made rapid progress in this direction and it is hoped that the allotment orders will be issued by the end of 4 P. M. this month. Who so ever helped our people or did anything for them when they had been driven out of their homes and had no other place than the camps to live in, we are grateful to him. They were homeless and without any means. These are people who have been

lying absolutely helpless. But now attempts are being made to stop their rations. The argument which is advanced for taking such a step is that free rations foster idleness and people may fall into the bad habit of shirking work. There is no harm in applying such an argument in cases where work can be provided to the people or the can be sent to some training centres where they may be enabled to earn a livelihood for themselves. But in all seriousness I ask, what about those to whom no work or any financial assistance can be given by the Government? It is not completely correct to say that rations should only be given to those who are helpless, weak, old or children. I do not agree with this argument. We have no right to stop rations when we can provide neither work nor any financial aid. Freedom alone will not help them to fill their stomachs. They require something solid for that.

After this I come to another question which has been referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his Address. He is certainly aware of our troubles and hardships which cannot ordinarily be described. Here is the relevant extract from the Address.

"It (the Government) is conscious, however, of the fact that urban displaced persons are not fully satisfied and are at times bitter. This lack of satisfaction and even this bitterness are understandable, and are mainly due to the fact that a scheme for compensation for the urban property they have left behind has not yet been evolved. This is one of the subjects which is in issue between India and Pakistan, and all I can say is that both my Government and the Government of India have availed themselves of every opportunity of urging its vital importance. A preliminary step, which has been undertaken is the promulgation by the Centre of the Displaced Persons (Claims) Ordinance of 1950, under which machinery will be set up shortly for inviting and verifying the claims of our displaced persons owning urban property".

Sir, no declaration has been made in this Address as to what policy would be pursued for giving compensation to the refugees or what would be the shape or form of that compensation. As a matter of fact I fail to understand any reason for keeping silent over this question. So far as the Central Government is concerned their attitude is so patent. They wish that Pakistan should pay for such a compensation. But if that be the position we may have to wait till the doomsday. We full well know the relations between Pakistan and our Indian Government. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena plainly told in the Parliament that in spite of the earnest efforts of the Government of

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India, Pakistan could not be persuaded to come to any settlement in regard to the property left by our people behind. We have waited for such a settlement for the last over two years but nothing appears to be turning up. To me it appears as if this work is being unnecessarily delayed. In the first instance, our Government asked the refugees to put in their claims. They did so. But it was held that the claims were exaggerated and therefore the displaced people should file new claims. This time the people are warned that in case they make any false claims they would be punished. I ask why could not Government take similar steps when they invited the claims at the very first time? The pity is that the Government has not been able to get forms printed as yet. The refugees have been in this helpless state for the last over two years. They haven't a penny in their pockets and the Government is also not giving them anything. Some of them have been settled in the houses left by the Mohammadians all right but no capital is being given to them by way of compensation of their property. We are being merely fed on words and there is no knowing how long the negotiations with Pakistan will continue in this regard. I say and say it with all the force that I can command, that we should get compensation from the Government of India and without any reference to Pakistan. This does not mean that I do not favour the idea of realising compensation from Pakistan. Such a thing is far from my mind. We should do our utmost to get anything that we can from them but knowing the financial condition of Pakistan I am of the opinion that they may not be able to pay for even a small portion of the property worth rupees four thousand crores which we have left with them. The representatives of the Government of India have confessed that Pakistan does not appear to come to terms. So the present policy cannot bring any comfort to us. However, I hope that hon. Dr. Lehna Singh who is in charge of the Rehabilitation Department of our state will approach the Government of India for evolving a new policy for giving compensation to the refugees. We should get a clear cut idea of what and how we are to get it. Sir, it has been said that no precedent exists in this world where compensation may have been paid in such a case. Such an argument does not satisfy me. In fact I feel greatly disappointed ever since the discussion that took place in the Parliament on this subject.

Hon. Members: Is there no time limit to the speech by the mover of the motion?

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** There is no time-limit for the mover

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. May I enquire from the Deputy Speaker if no time-limit has been fixed for the mover of the motion ? Was it not decided that he should be allowed to speak for half an hour only ?

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** That was only a request to the mover to finish his speech within half an hour. There can be no time-limit for the mover.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I draw your attention to rule 18, which lays down :—

“The Speaker may, if he thinks fit, prescribe, after taking the sense of the House, a time-limit for speeches ?”

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I shall ask the House when that time comes ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I have drawn your attention to Rule 18.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I shall ask the hon. Member to be brief

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I was submitting, Sir, that in the course of his Address, His Excellency the Governor admitted the importance of rehabilitation of displaced persons and of the grant of compensation to them for their losses. Though the importance of this matter is realised, I find that when one makes demand for compensation, some of my Friends, who profess considerable sympathy with us, are not prepared even to listen to such a suggestion. I wish to make it clear that unless the Government decides to award compensation, the displaced persons cannot be properly rehabilitated.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order Sir. I wish to bring it to the notice of the hon Speaker that after taking the sense of the House, he was pleased to fix a time-limit for the mover in order to enable other Members to speak on the motion. The Deputy Speaker, however, decided that there was no time-limit for the mover. May I know, Sir, whether your former decision stands or there is no time-limit for the mover ?

Mr. Speaker : I shall ask the hon. Member to proceed with his speech.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir I asked for your ruling on this matter.

Mr Speaker : I shall ask the hon. Member not to be lengthy.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I find, Sir, that when I talk about the plight of displaced persons, some of my friends are upset. It is we who had to pay the price for liberty. Do you wish to starve us ? When I plead for grant of compensation, one point of order is raised after another. I find, Sir, that the Government has not accepted full responsibility for the losses suffered by displaced persons. It has not been admitted by the Government that it is their moral responsibility to grant full compensation to the refugees. For guidance of the Government, I have collected instances where compensation was paid in such cases. I wish to place these precedents before the House, so that it might not be said that the grant of compensation is legally defective or that this situation is unprecedented.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** General remarks are sufficient. The hon. Member need not give instances.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : In his Address to this House, His Excellency the Governor did not make any declaration of the Government policy with regard to grant of compensation. I shall be prepared to give up this point if the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation assures me that compensation would be secured for the displaced persons.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Is the hon. Member thanking the Governor for his Address or criticising him ? He started his speech at 3-30 and should now wind up.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I object to it, because I wish to point out that I had adjusted my speech on the understanding that there would be no time-limit for me, as mover of the motion. If I had been told at the outset that I was required to finish my speech within a certain time, I would have adjusted my speech accordingly.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should now wind up.

✓ **Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** There is no time limit.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Still I can ask the hon. Member to wind up. The hon. Member should realise that there are thirty to forty Members who wish to take part in the debate.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I shall try to be as brief as possible, but it would have been better if I had been informed beforehand.

Sir, I shall not narrate the instances in which Governments of certain countries had to grant compensation to ruined persons but shall only state for the information of hon. Members that there have been such cases in other countries. I shall give these instances to the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation and shall request him to obtain money for grant of compensation, from the Government of India. If he cannot get money from there, he should devise means to raise it. It is a mistake to think that this problem is solved by the allotment of agricultural land or residential houses to a few persons. The only solution of this problem is the grant of compensation. As I stated on another occasion, get us our homes back or give us new ones. We should somehow be taken back to the homes which we had to leave. The Government should bring about such conditions that we get back the property which we had to abandon. It should, moreover, be in the same condition in which it was left. If the Government is unable to do so, it should give us compensation. While agreeing in general with other points in the Address, I have pointed out that matter in which I feel differently.

I would now point out the omissions in the Address which are regrettable. Firstly, no mention has been made in the Address regarding the industrial policy of the Government. It has not been said as to what policy would be followed by the Government for the development of industry in our State. It is said that in other countries such as Russia, China etc., greatest importance is attached to agriculture and industry. But in spite of this fact the Address is silent about them. We have not been told whether there would be any plan for industrial development in the State or not and if there was any, it should have been pointed out in the Address. This is a very serious omission.

The second omission is with regard to labour. It has not been told as to what would be the attitude of the Government towards

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labourers and factory workers, and what sort of social order Government intends to bring about. No mention has been made regarding matters such as rules of promotion of factory workers, their weekly hours of work, their salary and their relationship with the capitalists. In short, not a word has been said about the future position of labour. I hope that, at the time of replying to the debate, the Government would make some statement of policy with regard to labour.

Thirdly, no mention has been made regarding our price structure. Such an Address should have given us some idea about the price structure in the State in future. It should have told us whether the prices would be decreased or increased or the present prices would be maintained. The peasant, the labourer, the businessman and the housewife would have been anxious to know the policy of the Government in this matter.

Mr. Speaker : I would allow only five minutes more to the hon. Member.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Again, Sir, no mention has been made in the Address with regard to the credit policy of the Government. The position in our State is such that banks do not advance loans and the credit position is very unsatisfactory. In spite of this, it has not been told whether Government intends to start any bank for this purpose or not. If the time at our disposal is to be so short, all this discussion, Sir, is useless. For want of time I am only hinting at the omissions in the Address, so that they may be made good.

Another very important matter is that of land reforms in the State. Nothing has been said about it in the Address. It has, no doubt, been said that the Government has every sympathy with the agriculturist, but the term sympathy is very vague. I must say that ever since this State came into being, nobody has cared to study the land system. The position of Jagirdars, peasant-proprietors, tenants and others should have been clarified in the Address. Tenants in the State are being ejected and there has been much agitation going on in the State about this matter. In spite of this fact, the Address has not given any declaration of policy on this matter.

Lastly, His Excellency, in the last paragraph of his Address, has appealed to the hon. Members to rise above pettiness and narrow-mindedness. I welcome this appeal and hope to act upon it. I would also request my other hon. Friends to do the same. The conditions in our country today are precarious and we see the dark clouds of war gathering on the political horizon of India and Pakistan. The need for unity under these conditions is really very urgent. But I would like to point out to His Excellency and his Government that they should create conditions which should be favourable for the achievement of this purpose. I, therefore, want to know as to who are to be the builders of this palace of democracy. If this task is entrusted to inefficient persons, the future of East Punjab is bound to be dark. The present occasion relates to the affairs of our State; otherwise I shall have no hesitation in pointing out this fact to other States and to the country at large. Great tasks cannot be accomplished by weak personnel.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir I beg to second the motion moved by Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. His Excellency the Governor has dealt with some of the important problems of the Punjab. He has explained the manner in which this unfortunate State, which after the partition fell victim to the tragic happening of loot, murder and arson on a large scale, recovered from these shocks, and how law and order was restored. Our police deserve to be praised for bringing the conditions to normal. But this by no way means that we can afford to be blind to the genuine complaints that are made from time to time against some of the police officials. All such complaints of the excesses committed by the police deserve to be looked into, and those found guilty should be punished.

The second important matter to which His Excellency the Governor made reference was that of the persons uprooted from West Punjab. The scheme of model towns for the resettlement of these persons is worth consideration. There have been a number of complaints with regard to the very poor quality of the material which has been used in building the houses in these towns. I cannot reconcile myself to this. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge of P.W.D. towards these complaints, so that

[Sardar Shiv Saran Singh]

those who have indulged in misappropriation may be brought to book.

The third problem is that of food. Hon. Members are fully aware of the importance that is due to the production of food. It is a national problem and no stone should be left unturned towards its proper solution. In this matter our Government has in hand certain valuable schemes. Top priority is said to be given to grow-more-food campaign. But still much needs to be done by way of taking practical steps in this direction. Mere propaganda in such matters cannot carry us anywhere. What we need is sinking of tube-wells and percolation wells, conservation and composting of manures, use of pure seeds, consolidation of holdings etc. If we provide such facilities to the agriculturists the problem of food will automatically get solved. What the farmer expects from the Government is such material help and not mere propaganda.

As to the procurement of wheat, rice, etc., the steps taken by the Government have gone a long way to ease the situation concerning their distribution in the rationed areas. But much of the prosperity of this State depends upon Bhakra and Nangal Projects. Progress on this project is steady and the centre is doing whatever it can to help the execution of this work. But what I wish to submit is that more attention should be paid to this matter because production, which is so important from our national point of view, depends mainly upon these schemes. The electricity generated as a result of this project will help in running the tube-wells etc. and the farmers will produce more if such facilities are forthcoming.

The fifth problem of which His Excellency the Governor has made mention is that of the capital of our State. After about two years the decision with regard to the site has been made. There have been conflicting views on this subject. Some were of the opinion that the site for the capital should have been chosen near some existing city. But anyhow the committee has considered it fit to choose Chandigarh for the site of the new capital. I hope the construction will be expedited.

As regards services, although it cannot be denied that some corruption and bribery are prevalent, it is upon them that the Government has to depend for the implementation of its policies. During the last two or three years the services had to work very

hard in the abnormal conditions that prevailed throughout the State. It is a matter of satisfaction that they bore the brunt with courage and fortitude.

His Excellency the Governor also pointed out that the hon. Members have to deal with the Budget and important Legislative business in this session. Twenty eight Bills are before the House. The more important among them are, Prevention of Black Marketing Bill 1950, Gaon Panchayat Bill, and the Restraint on Dowry Bill. The most remarkable point is that His Excellency laid a great stress on the farmer. He said, 'He is our base and our foundation; him we must reach and that too most effectively; to him we must go; constantly him we must teach; him we must guide; him we must tell what to do and what not to do, how to do and how not to do.' At present the ordinary farmer does not feel the glow of our newly won independence. The reason for this appears to be that so far no concrete steps have been taken which may confer direct benefits upon the villagers in such matters as village sanitation, provision of medical and educational facilities etc. In these spheres no progress seems to have been made. What we need at present is that all the schemes should be implemented forthwith. The need for showing practical sympathy by giving more Taccavi loans to the villagers for improving their lot is very urgent. Consolidation of holdings and such other steps are the need of the hour. In his Address the Governor has rightly stressed the importance of the farmer. He is the pivot of our economic structure. All our plans and steps should be directed towards his betterment. In the end I thank His Excellency the Governor for his effort to point out the salient problems of the State and the needs of the farmer. It is for the Government to implement these and to give a practical shape to them.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Members of this House assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

As I have already mentioned there are twenty notices of amendments to the motion under consideration and by taking them

[Mr. Speaker]

one by one we will not be able to make much progress as I am sure that not more than 3 or 4 will be discussed. So what I propose is that all the hon. Members who wish to move their amendments should move them and then the House should discuss all these amendments together. I will try my best to see that those Members who have given notices of amendments may get time but that does not mean that other Members who have not given notices of amendments shall be deprived of their right to take part in the debates. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time he thinks would be needed by him to reply to the debate ?

Minister For Labour : I think at least an hour would be necessary to answer the debate.

Mr. Speaker : I will give 15 minutes to those Members who have given notices of amendments and to others 10 minutes each. Now I will request the hon. Members who have given notice of amendments to move them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—"but regret that :

- (a) no steps have been proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the displaced tenants (Sharnarthi Muzaras) ;
- (b) no definite assurance has been given to expand the sphere of activities of the Beneficial Departments ;
- (c) no promise has been made to ameliorate the conditions of Lower Grade and Subordinate Services ;
- (d) no mention has been made to bring in a Bill to stop the ejectments of the tenants".

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—"but regret that :

- (a) no steps have been proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the displaced tenants (Sharnarthi Muzaras) ;
- (b) no definite assurance has been given to expand the sphere of activities of the Beneficial Departments ;
- (c) no promise has been made to ameliorate the conditions of Lower Grade and Subordinate Services ;
- (d) no mention has been made to bring in a Bill to stop the ejectments of the tenants."

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—but regret that—

- (a) no assurance has been given to protect and safeguard the fundamental rights of free citizens of the State ;
- (b) no steps have been promised to be taken to safeguard the civil liberties of the people ;
- (c) no definite proposals have been laid down to check corruption, nepotism, favouritism, inefficiency and red-tapism prevalent in the administration ;
- (d) that no definite relief has been promised to the landless displaced rural people.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—but regret that—

- (a) no assurance has been given to protect and safeguard the fundamental rights of free citizens of the State ;
- (b) no steps have been promised to be taken to safeguard the civil liberties of the people ;
- (c) no definite proposals have been laid down to check corruption, nepotism, favouritism, inefficiency and red-tapism prevalent in the administration ;
- (d) no definite relief has been promised to the landless displaced rural people.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana :—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—and which undoubtedly contains a comprehensive survey of the many useful activities of the Government in its various Departments.

This House, however, strongly feels that the Address would have given still more satisfaction if assurances were also contained to the following effect :—

1. That the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900 which discriminates between notified agriculturists and non-agriculturists shall be recommended to the Legislature for immediate repeal, with the object of removing the present class distinction offending against the Constitutional safe-guards provided in the charter of Freedom and Fundamental rights for every citizen by the new Constitution of India ;
2. that conditions will be created in the State for securing to it a more advanced and progressive programme of economic development in the spheres of industry, trade and commerce ; and

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

3. that the tax structure will be rational and equitable in its distribution of incidence between a section and a section and a class and a class and their respective capacities to pay.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—and which undoubtedly contains a comprehensive survey of the many useful activities of the Government in its various Departments.

This House, however, strongly feels that the Address would have given still more satisfaction if assurances were also contained to the following effect :—

1. That the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900, which discriminates between notified agriculturists and non-agriculturists shall be recommended to the Legislature for immediate repeal, with the object of removing the present class distinction offending against the constitutional safeguards provided in the charter of Freedom and Fundamental rights for every citizen by the new Constitution of India;
2. That conditions will be created in the State for securing to it a more advanced and progressive programme of economic development in the spheres of industry, trade and commerce; and
3. that the tax structure will be rational and equitable in its distribution of incidence between a section and a section and a class and a class and their respective capacities to pay.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir I move—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—but regrets that—

- (a) no indication has been given if any steps would be taken for giving proper educational facilities in rural areas;
- (b) no mention has been made of the steps if any, which the Government propose to take for safeguarding and improving the health of rural population;
- (c) the House has not been told what steps, if any, the Government propose to take for developing road communications and transport in rural areas;
- (d) no reference has been made to the unsatisfactory conditions in which Harijans in rural areas are living and the steps if any proposed to be taken to ameliorate their conditions.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—but regrets that

- (a) no indication has been given if any steps would be taken for giving proper educational facilities in rural areas;

- (b) that no mention has been made of the steps if any which the Government propose to take for safeguarding and improving the health of rural population.
- (c) that the House has not been told what steps, if any, Government propose to take for developing road communications and transport in rural areas.
- (d) that no reference has been made to the unsatisfactory conditions in which Harijans in rural areas are living and the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to ameliorate their conditions.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that

- (a) no mention has been made therein regarding the working of freedom of expression and speech in public meetings in the State nor any assurance given for honest and just criticism ;
- (b) no steps have been suggested to root out corruption prevailing in the administration of the State;
- (c) no assurance is given to separate the judiciary from the executive ;
- (d) and no steps have been suggested to make "Prohibition" success in the State "

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that

- (a) no mention has been made therein regarding the working of freedom of expression and speech in public meetings in the State nor any assurance given for honest and just criticism ;
- (b) no steps have been suggested to root out corruption prevailing in the administration of the State ;
- (c) no assurance is given to separate the judiciary from the executive;
- (d) and no steps have been suggested to make "Prohibition" success in the State."

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets to point out that it does not contain any mention of the future development of the Kangra Valley which deserves first priority due to its being backward in almost every respect."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets to point out that it does not contain any mention of the future development of the Kangra Valley which deserves first priority due to its being backward in almost every respect."

Master Gurbanta Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it does not make any mention about the uplift of the Harijans."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it does not make any mention about the uplift of the Harijans."

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it makes no mention about the removal of distinction between the Agriculturists and Non-Agriculturists in the State."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it makes no mention about the removal of distinction between the Agriculturists and Non-Agriculturists in the State."

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it makes no mention about the welfare of the women in the State."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that it makes no mention about the welfare of the women in the State."

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the most important problem of the general menace of Chos in the Hoshiarpur District has been totally ignored by His Excellency which he was pleased to come across and face during his recent tour of the Hoshiarpur District."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the most important problem of the general menace of Chos in the Hoshiarpur District has been totally ignored by His Excellency which he was pleased to come across and face during his recent tour of the Hoshiarpur district."

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the most important question of the urgency of the enforcement of the Consolidation of Holdings Act in the Punjab at an elaborate scale which is the basic factor to enhance grow more food campaign of the province has not been touched."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the most important question of the urgency of the enforcement of the Consolidation of

Holdings Act in the Punjab at an elaborate scale which is the basic factor to enhance grow more food campaign of the province, has not been touched."

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets to note that the expenditure on the grow more food campaign has not properly been utilized and has not benefitted properly the producers as about 75 per cent of this money has been spent on the top heavy administration of the Department."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets to note that the expenditure on the grow more food campaign has not properly been utilized and has not benefitted properly the producers as about 75 per cent of this money has been spent on the top heavy administration of the Department."

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the Government has decided to go ahead with the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh in spite of the protest of the residents of the locality."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—"but regrets that the Government has decided to go ahead with the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh in spite of the protest of the residents of the locality."

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that —

- (a) no assurance has been given to protect and safeguard the rights of the labour, and for the amelioration of their condition ;
- (b) no assurance is given that the labour legislation will be applied in the Punjab, which is not being totally applied."

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of the Motion the following be added :—"but regrets that

- (a) no assurance has been given to protect and safeguard the rights of the labour, and for the amelioration of their condition ;
- (b) no assurance is given that the labour legislation will be applied in the Punjab which is not being totally applied."

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, I have read and re-read very carefully the Address of His Excellency the Governor. I perused it with the intention of finding out whether it contained anything done for the amelioration of the poor. But I am constrained to remark that from the manner in which the Address has been prepared or in other words

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

the way in which the policy of the Government has been enunciated, it becomes crystal clear that the poor man has no place in the Address. I would just draw the attention of the House to an extract from the Address which is as below :—

“My Government is well aware of the shortage of houses for our displaced persons in rural areas, and will help them in making it good within the limits of its resources.”

You will see, Sir, that the scarcity of houses has been admitted, but it has been stated that Government will endeavour to provide houses to the displaced persons according to its resources. In this connection I may point out that in rural areas, when the Muslims migrated, they had left about six lakhs of houses, but three lakhs of them were destroyed during the riots which took place in August 1947. Now four lakhs of zamindars who have been allotted lands are anxiously awaiting to be rehabilitated, but the difficulty is that there are not enough houses to settle them in. I feel it is the bounden duty of the Government to make arrangements for providing them with houses. But the policy which the Government has adopted, shows that it has no intention to do anything in this direction. What appears is that Government intends to do its best for the few bigger or influential persons but do little for the poor people. Then, Sir, a systematic attempt is being made to uproot those refugee tenants who were settled in 1947 just after their migration from the other side of the border. I am simply surprised at the attitude of the Government in trying to remove them from those lands on which they have worked assiduously. Government should have some clear policy in regard to this matter. When these tenants were settled, the idea was that the lands should not remain idle and that food grains should be produced as much as possible to avoid scarcity. Now when they have worked hard and have served the country by doing their best to produce food-grains, it would be the height of injustice to displace them in the year 1950 i.e., after more than two years. Again, work centres have been opened for the refugees who were till recently in camps where they could earn their livelihood. But these refugee tenants who had their bullocks, camels and other agricultural implements and have been tilling lands to produce foodgrains, have no other means of earning livelihood. Nor are they well-versed in any craft by which they could eke out their living. They are in fact wedded to land and know only the art of agriculture. So to displace them would be very unfair. Then the

manner in which the allotments are being made by the Rehabilitation Department shows that the difficulties and requirements of these poor tenants are not kept in view. Then again the policy of the Government is to set up Tractor Organisations for tilling the land and even loans and grants are being made to those zamindars who are members of the Tractor Organisation. The refugee tenants are receiving no substantial help from the Government. I am constrained to remark that some of my hon. Friends are perhaps under the impression that by raising this point I am creating some unpleasantness. I may assure them that it is not so. I want that adequate arrangements should be made for one and all without any exception whatsoever. However I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that if the Rai Sikhs already re-settled on the borders surrounding Ferozepore were to be asked to settle somewhere else, their removal would have very bad repercussions.

Further I wish to point out that during 1947-48 the policy of the Government was to spend lakhs of rupees on the National Volunteer Corps. After spending huge amounts on it, we find that this very body has been reduced to a mere skeleton. It has been the policy of the Government not to open new schools. The same is the case with the opening of new hospitals and construction of new roads. Statements were issued through the press in November 1949 to the effect that Government was not prepared to open new schools, construct new roads and build new hospitals. The policy of the Government has led the inhabitants of rural areas to believe that their Government is not doing anything substantial for them. The conditions under which the people of rural areas are living are such that day in and day out they are thinking within themselves whether or not the present Government happens to be their own. Government has gone ahead with the construction work in the towns. Industrial towns are being built. In short adequate arrangements are being made for rehabilitating people in the towns. People in the rural areas are denied all sorts of facilities particularly in the form of medical aid, transport and education. It will not be out of place to mention here that after sunset people of the rural areas find it difficult, rather impossible, to move out of their houses, for want of adequate roads. Instances in this connection are not wanting. I have just today received a report in which it is mentioned that 75 villagers of my district were looted and plundered while they were returning from

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

Roshan Mella: This happened in broad day light and not during the night. If Government had made adequate arrangements for roads, I am sure, such things would not have taken place.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: What was the number of those who resorted to loot and phunder?

Sardar Bachan Singh: They were 4 or 5 in number. They were fully equipped with pistols and guns.

Minister for Local Self Government and Labour: Were they ruralites or urbanites?

Sardar Bachan Singh: These days, only urbanites resort to loot and plunder. Further I wish to read out a few lines from the Address which are as follows:

"The Beneficent Departments have not been starved; in fact increased provision has been made for several of them."

Since the partition we have been studying the Budgets of this post partitioned province and in spite of the oft repeated promises held out to us, we have come to this conclusion only that even to-day the same step-motherly treatment as was meted out during the British regime is being meted out to us. I am constrained to remark that our Government has really failed to discharge its duty in providing adequate facilities in the form of medical aid, education and transport which happen to be the need of the hour. Government has all along been negligent towards fulfilling these needs. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Just to-day during the question hour the hon. Chief Minister in reply to a question pointed out that arrangement for voluntary cuts in the salaries of officials drawing more than Rs. 3,000/- p. m. had already been made and that it was only a temporary measure. I am really constrained to remark that arrangements have not been made to effect the same cuts in the salaries of officials drawing Rs. 2,000/- p. m. On the otherhand we find that no adequate steps have been taken to improve the hard lot of poor chaprasis, patwaris, munshis and clerks who find it difficult, rather impossible, to get their requirements even. Government has not devised any ways and means to solve their problems. If we study the prices of essential

commodities prevailing at present in our State, we will find that the low-paid Government servants will not be able to spare any penny from their salaries if they were to give a meagre quantity of half a seer of milk to their family members. Poor low-paid Government servants are at a loss to know what to do and where to go. If they place their genuine demands before the Government for its consideration, they are intimidated and threatened with dismissal. Their genuine feelings are suppressed and they are not allowed to have their say. There is no gainsaying the fact that Government has not done anything to ameliorate the hard lot of these low-paid Government servants. There is no doubt about it that the high officials are very efficient, but it does not mean that the genuine demands of the low-paid Government servants who form the very back-bone of the administrative machinery, should be ignored altogether. So long as the subordinate services are not satisfied, I am sure, the spirit of administration cannot be achieved. Further, I wish to submit that in the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor, we do not find even a word used in it to show some sympathy towards the subordinate services who are mainly responsible for executing the policies of the Government and who form the back-bone of the administrative machinery. Here I cannot do without saying this that no steps whatsoever have been taken to improve the hard lot of patwaris, District Board teachers and other low-paid Government servants.

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt has in the course of his speech remarked that none of us is fully informed about the land reforms. Perhaps by moving the motion of thanks my hon. Friend thinks that he has lightened our burden. However, I wish to make it clear and also bring it to the notice of the hon. Member that land reforms are being introduced in other provinces and landlordism is being abolished. It will not be out of place to mention here that during the Sachar Ministry, my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar had announced at a public meeting in Hissar and at other places too that ejectment of tenants would be abolished and again my hon. Friend Doctor Sahib has been laying emphasis on this point that a Bill to stop ejectment would be brought before the House.

✓ Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member should avoid names in future.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Very well, Sir, I will do so in future.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

I am really constrained to remark that no such step has been taken or is being taken by the Government. In fact no adequate arrangements have so far been made to improve the hard lot of the poor tenants. Mere statements will not do. Action and action alone will prove that our Government has some sympathy towards the poor tenants. Deeds and not words are the proof of doing something substantial for ameliorating the conditions of the poor tenants. Here I wish to quote a few lines from the statement of Lord Byde, Ex-Director General, F.A.O. He says :—

"Hunger is the greatest of all politicians. People who are short of food and other primary necessities of life will over-throw any Government or economic system which does not make these available to them "

If this Government thinks that it has succeeded in restoring and maintaining law and order and that quasi-permanent allotment of land will solve the economic problems of our province, it is labouring under a grave delusion. I must warn it that we are sitting on the crater of a volcano and are drifting head-long towards disaster. It is really a pity that not a single word is to be found in the Address regarding the betterment of the condition of tenants, of the subordinate employees and of the people living in rural areas. It is therefore proper that this House should express its sense of regret over these glaring omissions and request His
3 P. M. Excellency to pay due attention to them.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, women, Urban) (*Hindi*); Sir, before the Governor started reading his Address, I had thought that it would be worthy of a representative of the Sovereign Democratic Republic that India has recently become. But after hearing it, I felt as though I had been listening to the Address of a representative of a capitalist Government, because it was singularly lacking in democratic spirit. It was like an imposing and magnificent building, well-plastered and beautifully decorated, but built on weak foundations.

While making a mention of the measures taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the uprooted people, the Governor gave facts and figures which have so often been quoted by the Ministers and are well known to the public. He praised his Government for the manner in which it has tackled this gigantic problem of rehabilitation but he gave all the credit to the high-grade officers without a good word for the low-paid and overworked subordinate officials.

It was proudly stated in the Address that 71·2 per cent of the total evacuee land in the Punjab and PEPSU has already been allotted on quasi-permanent basis. The fact of the matter is that about 3,40,000 allotment orders have so far been issued but about 1,13,420 complaints have been received from the allottees in respect of them. A short while ago, I tried to enquire from the hon. Minister the number of complaints that have so far been disposed of but could not get any reply. To add to the distress of the poor refugees, no more complaints are being entertained now. They have been asked to send them after the whole allotment is finished. At first the allotment was made on temporary basis; now it is being made on quasi-permanent basis and when this work is finished, complaints will be considered and most probably the allotment orders will be revised. How long does the Government intend keeping the uprooted people on tenter-hooks? Will it not let them settle permanently? Why doesn't it dispose of all the complaints now instead of hastening to finish the allotment work? If the Government continues functioning in this manner, I am afraid the refugees will remain unsettled for the whole of their lives and will continue hovering round the Rehabilitation Secretariat and the office of the Director-General.

His Excellency the Governor has also said in his Address that his Government is doing its very best in connection with 'Grow More Food' scheme. I doubt if the facts support the truth of this assertion. So long as evacuee land is not allotted on a permanent basis, I doubt if our food production will increase. So long as this is not done, land will continue to remain uncultivated. The allottee will have no incentive to put in labour for fear lest it should be taken away from him. All that is being done to increase food production is the planting of a tree here and a tree there by some Minister or other high dignitary, prompted by the desire of publicity through photographs appearing in newspapers and magazines. I don't think any serious attention is being given to this problem of vital importance. Nor do I think the scheme of work-centres and Vocational Training Centres has done anything substantial towards the solution of the problem of rehabilitation of displaced persons. It is now more than 5 months since these Vocational Training Centres were opened, with the financial assistance to the tune of one crore received from the Government of India, but so far not a single

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centre has been able to help the people earn a penny. The officer in charge of this scheme viz., the Extra Assistant Director, has been taken from the Irrigation Department and so about his experience of the new job, the less said the better. I have had an opportunity of seeing the Jullundur centre and I can say from personal knowledge that nothing useful is being taught there. Most of the persons were sitting idle. These centres, I think, are all for show and publicity. I would suggest that all such activities as vocational centres, work centres and demonstration parties be co-ordinated.

The Address also referred to the scheme for industrial areas. It was stated that so many sites have been allotted in this connection. It appears that this has all been done on paper. The cost has been realized from the poor refugees but nothing has been done to develop these areas. To say that so many crores of bricks have been manufactured and that their outturn is now 24 lakhs per ton of coal instead of 18 lakhs per ton, can give no consolation to them.

The Governor was also pleased to state that his Government had decided to build the Capital at Chandigarh. I wonder how he thought it fit to praise his Government for this decision, when the stark fact of the matter is that it has taken the Government three long years to arrive at this decision ! Could not this decision be taken earlier ? What is the good of building the Capital at Chandigarh now that most of the businessmen, doctors and industrialists have gone away and settled in other parts of the country ? For us, every town of this province is alike. We can't call any place our home town. Instead of spending huge amounts of money on developing the Chandigarh site, it would be much more economical to expand any of the existing towns e.g., Ambala, Jullundur or Ludhiana, and establish the Capital there. It would be possible to do so at half the cost.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Lady Member is requested to wind up her speech.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, if my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt can get five minutes extra, then I think that I am also entitled to this privilege. I would refer to a very important matter of which a mention has been made by His Excellency the Governor in his Address. He says :—

“My Government, therefore, regards the progressive improvement of the administrative machinery of the State as one of its important tasks, and I would

like here to give it as my personal opinion based on knowledge that our administration is improving steadily. There is, of course, much to be done. A few of our departments are not yet fully organised or adequately manned for the tasks they are called upon to undertake. Corruption is still prevalent though it is the considered opinion of my Government that it has been brought under a great measure of control."

But my knowledge in this respect is different. I can say on the basis of my personal knowledge that corruption is flourishing in every department of the Government. There is hardly any case which is considered on merits. Everything can be managed by bribing the officials. I know of a case in the Industries Department where a person had to see the record. He thought that instead of paying rupees one thousand as bribe to the Deputy Director of Industries it was better to part with fifty rupees to grease the palm of the clerk concerned. By doing so he managed to see the relevant file. In Hoshiarpur a rosin factory had to be allotted and 31 persons applied for it. But the pity is that it has not been allotted to anyone so far though the period of two years has elapsed. This is the state of affairs which is witnessed in the Government departments. Such a slow-going and evasive policy cannot bring credit to Government. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt would bear me out that in services cliques have been formed which do things in their own way and favour whomsoever they like. Contracts are reserved for business magnates like L. Karam Chand Thapar.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Lady Member is making sweeping remarks.

Srimati Sita Devi : Sir, I would not mention any names but I would submit that what I say is correct. Corruption and nepotism are prevalent in every department. The hon. Members are aware that sometime back Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, ex-Premier, tried to squelch corruption, nepotism and black marketing in the province but such a policy did not find favour with his colleagues, though they also profess to be archangels in the chase of evil. The unfortunate result of pursuing this bold policy was that he was forced to go out of the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker : There are only two minutes left. It looks as if the hon. Lady Member is not keen for the welfare of women.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I would now come to the amendment given notice of by me. I would say that no economic relief has

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been afforded to women, and the Governor's Address is silent about the Government's solicitude for the welfare of women. It would have given some satisfaction to us if the Government had chalked some scheme for opening hospitals and schools for the benefit of women. Besides this, the method of giving loans to the refugees is very defective. Such loans have been granted to the urban section of the displaced persons and the rural population has been completely ignored. Such widows who lived in villages and had owned a piece of land have not been given any economic relief. It can be well said that the Governor's Address was couched in good language and printed on a fine paper but I regret to say that it did not contain any all-round achievement and progress for which the Government can claim credit.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi): Sir, I have carefully read His Excellency the Governor's Address explaining the policy of the Government. I had imagined that after the achievement of independence, the State shall not abridge the Fundamental Rights of the citizens as conferred under the new Constitution of India. But judging from the activities of the Government in the past I am constrained to remark that our civil liberty has been curtailed more than in the time of erstwhile rulers. I find that more than 250 detenus have been detained in prisons and have been compelled to resort to hunger strike to secure Fundamental Rights. I would submit, Sir, that the rules regulating the grant of family allowance to the detenus are flagrantly violated. One Sardar Ram Singh of Sultan Wind was detained under the Public Safety Act but our Government refused to grant family allowance to him. There are several such instances in which this allowance was refused to many detenus whose families had no other source of income to fall back upon. It is not in consonance with the dignity of the Government to show this inhuman treatment to such detenus who have been put behind the bars without any trial. I would like to quote a few examples where detenus were illegally detained by the Government. One Lala Jawahar Lal B.A., LL.B. was detained under the Public Safety Act, but subsequently he was released by the High Court. A worker of our Socialist Party, Mr. Som Prakash, M.A., has been arrested simply for making a speech. So far

the Government has not been able to give a single instance of violence which may have happened in the Punjab but statements appear in the papers that conspiracies have been made to murder the hon. Ministers. No attempt is ever made to substantiate these statements. As a matter of fact Section 3 is being badly misused. It is being applied even in cases of disputes relating to Thikri Pahra. This is the condition of our civil liberties. It is true that detentions were made during the British rule as well, but the difficulties of those times bear no comparison to the present state of affairs. So far as corruption and dishonesty are concerned, this Government appears to have beaten all records. Here I am reminded of a saying of Shaikh Sadi which means that if a King unduly demands one egg from his subjects, his courtiers or officers are enabled to swallow thousands of chickens. This shows that a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of our hon. Ministers but they do not appear to realise this fact. One of them being a member of the Congress Working Committee went to Jaipur to attend the Congress Session but received his travelling allowance from the Punjab Government. I would like to ask him as to what was the Government business which he had to transact at Jaipur and which he could not do here.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should see that individuals do not come in the discussion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I am discussing the conduct of a Minister.

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Member must discuss his conduct, he should do it in a proper manner.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Very well, Sir, I shall use the word "Government". I do not know whether the method of fixing prices is given in the Rehabilitation Manual or not, but I shall place an example before the House. When a Tehsildar came to know that the Government had disposed of a motor car worth about five thousand rupees for only three hundred and sixty four rupees, he sold a cow costing about Rs. 300 for Rs. 30 only to some friend. I earnestly request that for God's sake, prices should not be fixed in this manner. This is not all. The M.L.As. and the Parliamentary Secretaries are becoming Members of the Municipal Committees and the District Boards and the day is not far off when they may

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be holding the posts of even Zaildar etc. The pity is that even licences for the sale of arms are being given either to M.L.As. or their friends. In these circumstances I do not comprehend how the Government can boast of eradicating corruption and dishonesty. Corruption can only go from the lower ranks if the people at the helm exercise a bit of self-control. The present work of the Government is most disconcerting and does not satisfy anybody.

I would now advert to the inefficiency of this Government. Here is an example. I wrote a letter on the 29th December 1948 and a reply was received on the 3rd January 1950 from the Irrigation Department. Another example is this. Sardar Sant Parkash Singh who is the Inspector-General of Police was appointed as such on the 15th August 1947 but the notification in this connection appeared in the Provincial Gazette on the 5th August 1949. Why go to other Departments, let us take the Legislative Assembly Department itself. The reports of the 1948 Budget Session have not been published so far. The question of the 1949 reports does not arise. (*Some hon. Members*: But this is a Department of the hon. Speaker). The reason for the delay is that the Government has not been able to make arrangements for printing them.

Mr. Speaker: The reason for this delay is only absence of printing arrangements.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Sir, in the Police Station Sarhali of my district, no death or birth entries have been made for the last six months for want of a death and birth register. I think there is no reason why the Government should not make the necessary arrangements. I have been told that in a lock-up of 19 feet length, 16 feet width and 16 feet height, 71 persons were kept. This makes one forget the Black Hole tragedy of Calcutta. There is another very serious allegation of this very pattern and it is this that in Police Station Valtaha of my district 35 men were kept in lock-up which was meant for only nine. This happened on the 15th July and 15th August 1948.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: I think 35 men of your size can be kept.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I would like to say something about the policy of the Government. In an answer to my question the

hon. Minister for Development said that the wheat for seed supplied to the Zamindars in District Amritsar was bought by the Government at the rate of Rs. 21-9-0 per maund and was sold at Rs. 21/4/9 per mound. But it appears that the Government has forgotten that at one time it stated that this wheat for seed was purchased by it at the rate of Rs. 13-14-10 per maund inclusive of the mandi, transport and godown charges and had sold it to the Zamindars at Rs. 21-9-0 a maund. May I know if it is not black market? Is it the duty of Government to serve the people or is this a trading concern?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not black market.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : From the rate at which the Government purchased wheat in 1948 alone you can very well imagine that it made a profit of eleven lakhs of rupees. The wheat which the Government purchased at the rate of fourteen rupees per maund was sold by it at twenty one rupees per maund. If full account is taken, it will be found that the Government made a profit of about twenty lakhs of rupees. An idea of the sympathy which the Government has for the people can be formed from the fact that it purchased wheat at Rs. 14 per maund and sold it to poor Zamindars for being used as seed at Rs. 21 per maund. Could there be a more sympathetic Government than this? If there was still something wanting, the Government has completed it by increasing the water-rate. Could there be a better Government for the poor people than this?

Another matter regarding which I require a guarantee from the Government is this that we should be assured that the Ministers will not draw travelling allowance amounting to one and-a-half-times or double the amount of their salaries. In no Ministry in this world you will find instance of a person whose salary is Rs. 385 but his travelling allowance is Rs. 1152. May I know from the Government if it is just and fair that a Minister whose salary is Rs. 1350 per mensem should get Rs. 2142 as his travelling allowance? I want an assurance that the hon. Ministers would not do such things in future.

The last thing which I wish to say is with regard to house owners who have come from the West Punjab. There are three lakhs of homes for four lakh families. Why should not the Government give grants instead of advancing loans for the rehabilitation of the remaining one lakh families?

Mr. Speaker: That point has been repeated by other hon. Members. The hon. Member's time is also over.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the hon. Member has levelled serious charges against the Government and has stated that corruption is rampant in all its departments. May I enquire through you, Sir, if the organisation on whose ticket he was elected.....

Mr. Speaker: That is not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Member is discussing the Governor's Address or is criticising the speeches made by other Members?

Mr. Speaker: He is referring to the speeches made by other hon. Members.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: May I know if the organisation on whose ticket the hon. Member who spoke before me.....

Mr. Speaker: I again request the hon. Member not to refer to these matters.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it within the rights of an hon. Member to discuss party matters in the House?

Mr. Speaker: Nothing has been said so far. I am more attentive to the speech of the hon. Member who is now speaking.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Sir, the hon. Member who spoke just now levelled serious charges of corruption against the Government. He said that corruption was rampant in every Government department, from top to bottom. May I know if it is not a fact that even after forsaking the organisation on whose ticket he was returned to the House, he had not tendered resignation so far?

Mr. Speaker: That does not concern the debate. He should not be personal. Let me tell him that if he indulges in personal remarks, I shall not allow him to proceed with his speech.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: I was submitting, Sir, that it had been said that even after attainment of complete independence and

the framing of a democratic Constitution, some persons are being detained without trial. May I know if anybody can have the least sympathy for those persons, whose party has passed a Resolution that the Government should be overthrown by acts of violence ? Those persons who have to be detained are members of a party which resorts even to tampering with railway tracks and thereby are responsible for the deaths of many innocent travellers. Look at the treatment which the Government is meting out to these people. They are being paid two and a half rupees per day as diet money and allowances are given to them as well as to their families. My hon. Friends, who used to study Socialism and Communism when they were in Jails, would remember that it is the creed of the party to which the detenus belong, that they would destroy all their enemies when they got power. This Government is treating even such persons as respectable citizens.

Then, Sir, it was said that in Amritsar, a Tehsildar sold a cow to a refugee at a very low price. As you are aware, these displaced persons had to abandon property worth millions in the West Punjab. Can they be expected to pay five hundred or seven hundred rupees for a buffalo ? The act of the officer who treated a certain refugee in this manner should be commended. Another thing which goes to the credit of our Chief Minister is that when he assumed office in this State on the 15th August, 1947, there was no organised office here. Even pencils and typewriters were not available with which office work could be started. As regards Law and Order in the State, I wish to remind the ex-Parliamentary Secretary about the statements made by him during the Premiership of hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. He himself stated that the conditions of Law and Order had improved. I would here like to point out that the Police in our Province did not even know as to how many absconders, robbers and other bad characters had come over to this Province from the West Punjab. 70 per cent of the total strength of Police in the United Punjab were Muslims and they formed 90 per cent of all Police officers. Under these conditions, the Government had to recruit entirely new men and they have now been trained. It is these men who are responsible for the maintenance of law and order. Up till now they have no record of the people who have come from the West Punjab, nor do they know their whereabouts. In spite of these difficulties, they have shot down dacoits in the Ferozepore District and have arrested certain dacoits in the Ludhiana District. The latter have been handed over

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to the Patiala Union Government which required them in certain cases. Our Government has thus handled the law and order position with firm hand, and is still trying to improve it. It can be done all the more efficiently if the hon. Members of this House render whole-hearted co-operation to the Government. It is not proper to criticize the Government without considering its difficulties and handicaps. The critics should bear in mind that the hon. Premier or four Ministers alone cannot keep a watch on thousands of people of our Province. I admit that there are shortcomings in the administration. But hon. Members should realize that the people who have come over to us from the other side of the border after having lost everything are no yet settled completely. From this fact, arise most of the problems that we are now facing. The solution of all these problems, I would submit, is a stable Government in our Province and that is possible only if the hon. Members wholeheartedly and strongly support it. It is in the hands of the hon. Members to reshape this torn and destroyed Province of ours by giving their full and active support to the Government. The House knows that our Province has made considerable progress during the last three years. The West Punjab Government has not so far succeeded in deciding the basic principle for allotment of land to the displaced people. I am sure they would now copy the scheme formulated by our Director General. The people who think that nothing has been done so far would know anything, only when things are done according to their pleasure. I would like to point out that we are at present passing through a very critical period. We should, therefore, realize that we are sons of this land. Even those who are not shouldering the responsibility of the Government should realize this fact and, therefore, we should not say in the House things which may be helpful to our enemies. We should try to remove our shortcomings in a confidential manner.

In the end I want to submit that tours are not undertaken for any gains by the hon. Ministers. They don't save anything by doing that. It is strange that if they remain at Simla and do their work by sitting in their offices, they are blamed for not visiting other places and if they undertake tours they are criticized for drawing travelling allowances. I would submit that the hon. Ministers should be left to themselves and their honesty of purpose should not be doubted. Instead of criticising the Government here and outside this House, the hon. Members should send positive suggestions to the Government and the rest should be left to it.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, it is a great day in the history of our State when we are meeting for the first time after the declaration of the Republic of India. Today we are having a unique opportunity of discussing the Government policy in a general manner on an Address which has been delivered by His Excellency the Governor. On such an occasion it is our duty to examine the policy as laid down by the Government in a broad manner and suggest things which might be helpful to the Government in running the administration of the State in a better and more efficient manner so that the good accruing to the people might increase. With this object in view, the good things which have been done under the policy of the Government require our applause and they require a good word from this honourable House and it is for that reason that I have stood up to associate myself with the resolution which has been sponsored by my honourable Friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. It is also my duty to give a feeling of confidence to the people of this State that after the inauguration of Sovereign Independent Republic of India this Government should overtly express its determination to straighten out the issues which really confront this State after the partition.

So far as the political objective is concerned, it is to the credit of the majority party of this House that that objective has already been achieved. But that does not solve the problems that confront the people of this State. The problems which face the Government of this State at the moment require grappling with a certain amount of imagination, grit and determination. These problems are mostly economic problems and unless the Government puts forward economic schemes for the reconstruction of the State, mere attainment of political freedom will not be of much advantage. We will have to put in more effort to justify the attainment of political freedom. Therefore, it is very essential that this House points out to the Government that the economic reconstruction and economic development of the State should receive foremost attention. Whatever I have said is all of a general nature and with your permission I will try to amplify this by making concrete suggestions.

When I say that the economic conditions of our people should be bettered, my heart goes out to the millions of those people who live in small hamlets in a large number of villages of the State. The Government should undertake economic planning with a view to improving the condition of such people. So long as we do not do

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anything tangible for bettering their condition, we cannot claim to have discharged our obligations to our people. Talking of the villages I have in mind that prominent section amongst them which depends on agriculture in one form or the other, consisting of either peasant proprietors or tillers of the soil. On the improvement of the economic conditions of those millions of people who are associated with agriculture, depends the future of the State. One overt act that the Government should do is to make a scheme for a rapid consolidation of agricultural holdings. Any mention of the scheme of consolidation of holdings is conspicuous by its absence from the policy of the Government as explained by His Excellency the Governor. I am sure that our agriculture can never improve and make any progress unless very rapid steps are taken for finalising the scheme of consolidation of holdings. We have heard enough sermons on the advantages of consolidation of holdings. The time has now come for us to act. Our inability to produce results will not be pardoned. People will not listen to us when we say that we had this difficulty or that difficulty. People now expect results and it is up to us to get results to satisfy them. Therefore the point that I stress is that the Government should fix a time limit for finishing the work of consolidation of holdings in the State of Punjab. Government can say that it has been busy with the rehabilitation problems. I know that the Government had its hands full and now they have practically finished with the allotment of agricultural land. They might have made certain mistakes here and there but it is a fact that the work of allotment of land has been finished in two years. If the Government decided to fix a time limit for the consolidation work I think it should not be difficult for them to successfully tackle this problem within a period of five years. I note with great regret that in the policy of the Government as explained by His Excellency in his Address there is no determination shown on the part of the Government that the work of consolidation would be finished within a certain number of years. As a matter of fact this important point which is so vital for the rural population, and for the people who depend on land does not find a place in the Address.

Another important thing for the improvement of conditions of our people is the development of the plans for the utilization of electric power in the country-side. We are now supplying electric

energy to West Punjab but we also need electric power for the reconstruction of our villages. I know that on account of the new values as a result of new ideas arising out of adult franchise, social structure and economic future, everybody is now thinking of improving the condition of his land. Talk about tractors and mechanical implements of agriculture is very much in the air. In this set-up of things we should make plans for utilizing our electric power in such a manner that it changes the very face of our country-side. People are now putting up tube-wells and other machinery for agriculture which is run by mineral oils or diesel oil. This heavy machinery will become useless when electric energy is made available to the villages. Therefore, I want that the people should know when and how much energy will be available to them for use in the villages. If they know it beforehand, a huge waste on machinery can be avoided. At the same time I suggest that electricity should be made available to them at the earliest. There may be views on depriving Pakistan of the use of electricity which we produce. At this stage I do not go into other details on this point but stress that our country-side needs electric power very urgently and badly too. This is a matter which in my opinion can brook no delay. In spite of this urgency I regret to note that in the Address of His Excellency there is no mention of the determination of the Government of utilizing that power which we are now supplying to Pakistan in our own villages so that the face of the country-side might be changed in a very short time and the turmoil that we have suffered and the loss that we have borne might be mitigated. My suggestion, therefore, is that we should take effective steps to stop the supply of electric energy to Pakistan and disseminate sufficient knowledge and provide technical advice to the country-side so that power might be utilized for the working of implements which is so very essential for the economic improvement of our State. While on this point I might mention that this will not only be to the interest of the country-side but will also be of great utility to the urban people and will go a long way to rehabilitate the industrial side of our State. So this step will help improve the economic conditions of both urban and rural populations of our State.

I have very little time at my disposal and will, therefore, mention one more point. There is very strong feeling with regard to the continuance of our Capital at Simla. It is a matter which has exhausted the patience of the population of the State of Punjab. The time has come when we should make some overt gesture and

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take effective steps to translate this desire on the part of the Government to move its Capital to the plains. No doubt the scheme for Chandigarh is mentioned in the Address but I do not know how long it will take to materialise. With the little experience that I have got of the working of the Government I can say that it might take years before any such scheme will materialise. (*Cheers*). Therefore the people of the State can no longer brook this state of affairs. Members of the public have to come even for petty things all the way to this place and this dead end from Kalka to Simla and back has to be done for reaching any other part of the State. Because the Chandigarh scheme might take a number of years before it is completed, we must make a start by moving down to some place in the plains. A number of towns in the plains can be considered. Jullundur is one of them; Ludhiana is another but I am not enamoured of any particular town. Any suitable town between Jullundur and Ambala may be selected. If we really wish to solve this problem with determination, it will not be difficult to do so. It is likely that if we move down as suggested by me, the hon. Ministers may be inconvenienced or it might cause inconvenience to the members of the services; they may have to live in tents but I can assure them that it will be greatly appreciated by the masses. My feeling is that if we tackle this problem with a certain amount of drive, then it should be possible for us to succeed. There is no use playing with the sentiments of the people and it would be worthwhile if we moved down although we may have to face certain difficulties and inconveniences. We have got enough debit in our account. Let us do something to bring credit to us. If we do something tangible, if we can produce something, which people can actually see and feel, it is only then that we can do something to our credit. With these remarks I associate myself with the resolution now before the House with the regrets that I have pointed out. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I am in full accord with the resolution moved by my hon. Friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. But I would like to make a few observations in regard to certain matters which His Excellency the Governor omitted in his Address. Sir, I feel that keeping in view the conditions obtaining in the country, particularly what we read in the newspapers and the cold war going on between India

and Pakistan, it was incumbent upon His Excellency not to ignore the dangers ahead and the same should have found a place in his Address. It is an open secret that clouds of war are visible on the political horizon as a result of strained relations subsisting between India and Pakistan. But I am surprised to see that not a word to this effect has been said nor any mention made of the deteriorating conditions in the country. I feel he should have clearly stated these facts in his Address and exhorted the people to be in a state of preparedness for any emergency or eventuality that may arise. I submit that we should profit from our experience of the chaotic conditions arising after the partition of the country in August 1947 and avoid complacent attitude towards this matter. I may also point out that in 1947 we, who have migrated from West Pakistan, were assured by the leaders as well as the authorities in power that fullest protection would be given to our life and property and that we should not leave our hearths and homes out of sheer fear of partition. But what happened after the vivisection of the country, is a recent history. I need not mention the losses that we sustained in men, money and material and above all in our honour. My submission, therefore, is that the Governor should have sounded a note of warning to the public of the coming dangers. He should have suggested certain schemes for meeting the critical situation. But he thought fit to keep mum over the subject.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should know that this subject does not fall within the purview of the provincial sphere.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May be, it is a central subject, but there are several ways in which he could indicate the preparedness of his Government to face any emergency. He could have told the House that adequate provision had been made for strengthening the organisations of the National Volunteer Corps, National Cadet Corps and Air Raid Precautions and adoption of other security measures. This would have allayed the anxiety of the public. Sir, you will perhaps remember that during the Second World War, although battles were raging far beyond the shores of India, yet the British Government made adequate arrangements to meet the menace of air raids. Now when we are the masters of our own country, the complacency of our Government in this regard is not understandable. Our Government should devise ways and means for the protection and security of our country and publish them to bolster up the public confidence and morale of the people.

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Then, Sir, another lacuna which I find in the Address is this. His Excellency the Governor extensively toured the State of Punjab. He saw with his own eyes what difficult time the refugees were having. But not a single word has been uttered in this connection. Only recently he toured the district of Hoshiarpur for 8 or 10 days. Public money to the tune of thousands of rupees was spent on his receptions etc. At certain places the Public Works Department had to spend six or seven thousands of rupees in repairing and decorating a Rest House for him. His Excellency was fully apprised of the difficulties experienced by the people of that district. He was told that the land of the district was being destroyed through the process of erosion by the chos and if no steps were taken to stop this state of affairs, then within 8 to 10 years the zamindars would be face to face with red ruin. But it appears that all this fell flat on the ears of His Excellency. He did not make a mention of any measure designed to improve the hard lot of the zamindars of this district. During his tour the people were heartened with the hope that something would be done to ameliorate their condition since he evinced great interest in them. May I ask why, if all this was to be in vain, His Excellency toured our district and was instrumental in the expenditure of thousands of rupees of the public? Through you, Sir, I would request His Excellency the Governor that just as he saw things in their true perspective during his tour similarly he should put forward certain measures for the betterment of the people of the district of Hoshiarpur.

Then, Sir, His Excellency narrated certain endeavours made by his Government to step up Grow More Food campaign. He said that Rs. 170 lakhs were provided for this purpose last year and a provision of rupees 186 lakhs was being made for this year also. I may tell the House that 75 per cent of this huge amount would go waste in the form of payment of salaries to the services and only 25 to 30 lakhs of rupees would be spent on some constructive schemes for increased production of food-grains. I may submit that if the Government earnestly wants to step up production of food-grains, then it should see that the whole amount of rupees 186 lakhs is judiciously distributed among the kisans in various forms, i.e., in sinking of wells, provision of modern agricultural implements, supply of manure, fertilizers, etc. The zamindars require no propaganda or publicity in this matter. The high prices of food-grains are a sufficient indication and incentive for them to do their utmost to

grow food-grains to the maximum capacity of the land. The appointment of Tehsildars and providing them with jeeps will be of no avail to the Grow More Food campaign. Every endeavour should be made to avoid waste of money.

Then I fully associate myself with the remarks made by my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh, who preceded me, on the subject of consolidation of holdings of lands. You will remember, Sir, that the Government was the recipient of profuse congratulations when the Consolidation of Holdings Act was enacted. But I am constrained to remark that it has been kept in cold storage. The high hopes entertained by the Zamindars as a result of this beneficial measure have been shattered now. It is really a matter of gratification that our Government is making all-out efforts to make Grow More Food campaign a success. Since it is the intention of the Government to take adequate steps in this direction, I would like to take this opportunity of requesting it to take the work in connection with the consolidation of holdings in hand. It is really a pity that Government should make the excuse of lack of funds. It will not be out of place to mention here that zamindars are ready to start this work on no profit and no loss basis. They are prepared to spend every little penny they possess. They want that no time should be wasted in starting this work. I am really constrained to remark that adequate steps are not taken in this direction. I have no hesitation in saying this that the hon. Ministers, who are busy with their party strifes, cannot really find time to divert their attention towards the condition of the zamindars and the kisans. If they really want to make the Grow More Food campaign a success they should at once start the work in connection with the consolidation of holdings. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution now before the House.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division, Landholders) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. It is really very kind of His Excellency the Governor to have spared a few moments of his precious time to deliver his Address to this august House. We are very fortunate in having a very efficient, hardworking and experienced Governor.

I take this opportunity of making a few submissions. It has been mentioned in the Address about the rural rehabilitation that

orders for the quasi-permanent allotment of land have been issued in respect of 71% of land. But I am constrained to remark that so far possession of land has not been given to the allottees. If along with the issuing of orders adequate arrangements had been made for giving possession of land, there would not have been any loss in the sugarcane crops. Under the circumstances I would request the Government to make all-out efforts to hand over the possession of land to the allottees so that we may have better crops in future and there may not be any loss whatsoever. Further I wish to point out and I am constrained to remark that the land allotted to the refugees has been subjected to huge cuts. In many cases cut up to 95 has been effected in the land so allotted. I would request the Government to fill this gap caused by these cuts by giving either more land or by making some compensation. As a matter of fact refugees who have left their land in Pakistan are within their rights to claim compensation. By making this claim we do not ask for any favour. We want our due. It will not be out of place to mention here that our forefathers had maintained the land left by us in Pakistan, with the sweat of their brow. We will not be satisfied with this small percentage of land allotted to us. Government has sufficient land at its disposal. If justice is not done to us and if we are not given what is our due, we shall neither let the Government rest in peace nor would we rest in peace ourselves.

Some mention has been made in the Address about the urban rehabilitation. I would request the Government to divert its attention towards this matter and thus try to finish this job of urban rehabilitation. These displaced persons who have left their urban property in Western Pakistan should be equally compensated here. No time should be lost in distributing houses and kothis to those displaced persons who have left such property in Pakistan and the sooner it is done the better would it be. It would really have been in the fitness of things if our Union Government were to exchange property with the Pakistan Government on Government level and thus distribute the Muslim evacuee property amongst the refugees from Pakistan. For the time being their problem may be solved temporarily.

Reference has been made by His Excellency the Governor in his Address to the Grow More Food campaign. Unfortunately our State is faced with manifold difficulties and the greatest difficulty is

about the lack of irrigation facilities. So long as these facilities are not afforded to us, we cannot improve the quality and the quantity of food-grains. The completion of the Bhakra Dam Project on which depends the future prosperity of our State will take time and it is in the fitness of things that the sooner the arrangements are made for sinking maximum number of tube-wells, the better it would be for stepping up food production in the State. It will not be out of place to mention here that tractors are being made available to people on payment etc. Here I wish to suggest that these tractors should be given to agriculturists who are really experienced and who know the art of cultivation and know their job well. Their vast experience in the art of cultivation will surely enable them to step up food production in the interests of their country in general and their State in particular.

My hon. Friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, has in the course of his speech referred to land reforms and has further pointed out that Government has not so far framed any policy with regard to this matter. He wants that land reforms should be introduced here in this State too. Here I wish to bring this point home to him that our State is quite different from other States. Here zamindars own very small holdings and we have peasant proprietors also. I am really constrained to remark that some interested persons are trying their best to exploit the good relations existing at present between landlords and the peasants. It will not be out of place to mention here that in view of the delicacy of the situation at present existing in our country, a Land Reforms Committee has been set up and this committee is busy with its work. The recommendations of this committee when completed would be placed before the hon. Members to enable them to know for themselves as to what steps should be taken in this direction and whether or not the recommendations of this committee should be accepted. With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my hon. Friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to make a few submissions in regard to the motion now before the House. Some mention has been made in the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor about the rehabilitation of our displaced brethren. Whatever has been done in this direction has been

[Sardar Kartar Singh]

referred to with great pride. There is no doubt about it that the Rehabilitation Department has tried its best to do the needful. But I wish to point out that we find very little in this Address about the rehabilitation work. I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that in this post-partitioned Province, and now the State of Punjab, Muslims had mortgaged their land with the Hindus and Sikhs. Nothing has been mentioned in the Address as to what should be done with this kind of land and how it should be redeemed. About 3 lakh acres of land belonging to Muslim evacuees is mortgaged with the Hindus and Sikhs. I would urge the Government to redeem it and utilize it for allotment to landless refugee farmers. I consider it a very important matter. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation and of other high officers to this matter but so far no indication has been given by the Government whether it is doing or intends doing anything in this regard. Though I have suggested this thing many a time before, I reiterate it here in this House. If the Government does not have the necessary money to redeem it, I would suggest that a part of this land should remain with the present mortgagors of the land and the other part should be redeemed in favour of the Custodian for distribution among refugee farmers. In this way we would be helping them to stand on their feet once again.

Another thing that I would like to stress is this. To-day, almost every one, to a greater or lesser extent, feels the danger of war with Pakistan. It is not known when the relations between India and Pakistan may worsen, making war inevitable. It is but natural that the people living in this frontier state and especially those living near the border should feel rather worried. No effort has so far been made, no measure appears to have been taken, to prepare the civil population for such an eventuality. No doubt our armed forces are redoubtable and quite capable of fighting any enemy. But to depend wholly and solely on the armed forces alone for the security and defence of the country, would be unwise. Indeed it would be folly to ignore the necessity of preparing the civil population physically and mentally for the war and of training them in the use of arms. No amount of money spent for this purpose would go waste. This is a necessity over which we should not mind spending money liberally. Economy in this respect would be misplaced. Any negligence about it would be unpardonable. Military training as well as instruction in air-

raid precautions are essential for people of this State. I hope that things may not take such a bad turn as to bring about war and it may be possible to find a peaceful solution and settlement of all disputes with Pakistan. Yet that is no reason why we should not be prepared for the worst. We regret to note that there was no reference to any such scheme in His Excellency's Address. Our Government has not followed a liberal policy even in the matter of granting licences for fire-arms. It should have, as a matter of fact, persuaded and encouraged the people to learn the use of arms. The right of keeping arms is considered very valuable by the members of every independent and brave nation. It is a pity that this right is being denied to the people of this State.

So far as improvement in the economic condition of this State is concerned, some measures have already been passed by this House in this connection, prominent among which being the measure aiming at the consolidation of holdings and prevention of fragmentation of land. I would urge that these measures be implemented without unnecessary delay and steps taken to reclaim one lakh acres of land which has come under the 'chos' because this will help in increasing the agricultural production in the State.

There is another important matter for the consideration of the Government. Our Government should make efforts to get land for Punjabi peasants either in Uttar Pradesh or in Madhya Pradesh or in other States where it is lying uncultivated. Now that the fallow lands of Sindh, Baluchistan and West Punjab are no longer open for the Punjabi farmers, new openings should be found for their colonizing and farming zeal in other States of India. This would be to the advantage of the country as a whole for the like of Punjabi peasant is not to be found anywhere else in India. A liaison agency should be established to help and guide the Punjabi farmers in getting land in other States. Why should land anywhere in the country remain uncultivated simply because the people of those States have no inclination for this occupation? It is in the interest of all that this land should be made available to the Punjabis. Provincialism might stand in the way of Punjabi traders being welcomed in other States but there is no reason why the Punjabi farmer who wishes to settle on the hitherto uncultivated land should not be welcomed. In this way the displaced Punjabis will be resettled and the country will be better able to overcome the food crisis.

[Sardar Kartar Singh]

Sir, another tract of land where the Punjabis own 80 % of the land has been unfortunately made part of another State. I am referring to Ganga Nagar in Bikaner—a tract which is to be benefited by the Bhakra irrigation scheme. If this ilaqa were to be included in the Punjab, many opportunities would have been opened for more Punjabis to settle there and once again to take to the occupation they love. I would request the Government to spare no efforts to get this tract included in the Punjab.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th March 1950.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

8th March 1950

Vol. 1—No. 3

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RE QUESTION NO. *1455¹

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the area of land, belonging to the local residents and to the Muslim Evacuees which is going to be acquired for the purpose of the Capital ?

Chief Minister : The plan of the Capital is to be made by Mr. Mayer. It is only after the plan is received that the Government will be in a position to say about the land and how much of it will be acquired by them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state how long it will take to get the plan ?

Chief Minister : The first plan will reach here for consideration by the end of March and the final plan is expected to be ready by the end of May.

Sardar Sarmukh Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will give land to the uprooted persons in the Capital? If so, where and how much?

Chief Minister : Land will be given to those landowners and in addition some other facilities will also be provided to the people whose lands will be taken.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : As Mr. Mayer has been selected for preparing the plan, will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether no suitable Engineer could be found in Punjab ?

Chief Minister : The Government selected Mr. Mayer after consultation and with the approval of the Government of India and the Prime Minister.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Should I take it that no capable Engineer was available in the Province ?

Chief Minister : This assumption is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What then were the reasons for not making the selection from among Punjab Engineers? Does it not mean that in the opinion of the Government all Engineers here are incompetent ?

Chief Minister : The selection of a person for a particular job does not mean that the others are incompetent. He was selected because he was considered fit for the job.

¹ Vide Debates of 7-3-50 for previous Questions and Answers.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the views of the Chief Engineer were ascertained before arriving at a decision with regard to the selection of the town planner?

Chief Minister : The matter was discussed and the Government of India gave its approval.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was the Chief Engineer consulted beforehand to make sure that no person was capable of performing the duty?

Chief Minister : There is no question of overlooking the Engineers of the Province in this matter.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will there be any graded cut on the land which will be given to the persons whose land will be taken by the Government?

Chief Minister : This is not the allotment of lands to the displaced persons.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMRITSAR

* 1485. **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :--

- (a) whether Pandit Faqir Chand, M.L.A. was unanimously elected as the President of the Municipal Committee, Amritsar;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether his name has been published in the Gazette; if not, why not?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) and (b) No reply to the question can be given because the hon. Member (Pandit Faqir Chand) has served a notice through a lawyer on Government.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker : I know what the hon. Member wants to say. Since the matter is sub-judice, no reply can be given to this question.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : How is it sub-judice?

Mr. Speaker : When a matter is subject to a judicial decision, strictly speaking, it is only then that the matter can be called sub-judice but legal sub-judice is to some extent different from Parliamentary sub-judice. May I know whether the hon. Member has sent any application to the High Court?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No, Sir, he has not done so.

Mr. Speaker : Honourable Members, I have studied this question very carefully. It has been ruled on more than one occasion that even if a matter is not pending before a court of law but it is most likely to go to a law court, any reply given in connection with that matter on the floor of the House might prejudice the decision of the court one way or the other and the matter is considered to be sub-judice according to Parliamentary practice. In this particular case also, I do not want that the reply of the Government should affect the decision of the court, as it is quite likely that this matter might be taken to a law court.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I ask why this question was admitted if no reply was due from the Government?

Mr. Speaker : As a matter of fact, I wanted that no reply should be given as that might affect the decision of the court either in favour or against this case.

Chief Minister : Sir, the question was admitted by you and as usual notice was sent to the Government and the Government was expected to give a reply on the floor of the House. When this question was under reply, a notice was received by me from the party concerned to the effect that either we should do the thing within three weeks or the hon. Member would go to a court of law. As soon as such a notice was received, the case became sub-judice.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The mere fact of giving a notice like the one received by my hon. Friend cannot make the matter sub-judice. It is quite possible that the party concerned might tender an apology within 24 hours and then there would be no necessity for the matter being taken up to a court of law. The House has got every right to seek information on a matter which is agitating the public mind and the excuse put forward by Government that the matter is sub-judice is not tenable.

Chief Minister : When the hon. Member has got every information regarding the case, why does he seek it from the Government ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The House wants it.

Honourable Members : We want it.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In this case, a question of principle is involved. The mere fact that a person has given notice of his intention to sue does not make it sub-judice. As it is a very important question on which an authoritative ruling is called for, I suggest that you may kindly apply your mind to it and then give your ruling. A decision on this question would directly affect the privileges of this hon. House. It is quite a different thing that the Government is not prepared to give a reply to the question that has been put by Shrimati Sita Devi. They can say that the reply is not ready; they can straightaway decline to give any reply ; there are hundred and one ways in which that sort of thing can be done. But to say that a matter becomes sub-judice by the mere fact of a notice of a person's intention of going to a court of law, is to my mind an untenable proposition. I, therefore, think that this is a matter upon which an important pronouncement is called for.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I draw your attention to Rule 29 (10) which lays down:—

It (a question) must not ask for information on any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India.

Unless a matter is actually before a court of law, it cannot be said to be 'under adjudication'.

Mr. Speaker : I quite admit that under the rules, strictly speaking, a question cannot be asked on a matter which is actually sub-judice. As I have already said, I have studied this question and have gone through the rulings given by other Speakers. I have come to the conclusion that not only those matters which are actually under adjudication by a court of law but even those matters also which are most *likely* to go to a court of law should not form the subject of interpellations on the floor of the House. Supposing a person

[Mr. Speaker].

goes to a police station and lodges F.I.R. and on that F.I.R. investigation starts, but so long as the challan does not go to a court, the case is not sub-judice, but still as it is likely to go to a court, any reply on such a question on the floor of the House would prejudice the findings of the court. That is the reason why I hold that such questions also should not be asked.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I bow to your ruling, Sir, and I have no intention of criticising it but I humbly request you to reconsider the matter and not give any pronouncement straightaway. The matter is of considerable importance. The instance which has been cited by you of a case being registered at a police station and being treated as sub-judice is supported by judicial authority. The mere fact that a case has been registered and that a magistrate takes cognizance of it makes it sub-judice. Recently the High Court at Patiala decided that all such cases should be treated as sub-judice and any person is liable for contempt proceedings if other ingredients are there. My submission is that this particular matter which is now before the House is quite different because the mere fact that a person has given notice of his intention to sue does not make the matter sub-judice. I, therefore, request you, Sir, to consider this question in the light of what I have stated. In this particular case, to say, that any information given on the floor of the House is likely to prejudice the case is, in my opinion, enlarging the scope of protection to the Government and is a serious breach of the privileges of this Honourable House and an encroachment upon the right of members.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** It is not a protection to the Government but I think some protection should be given to the hon. Member concerned. May I know from the hon. Member whether he served any notice on the Government?

Pandit Faqir Chand: Sir, I have not served any notice upon the Government but have notified the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad in their personal capacity in regard to this matter.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Does the hon. Member want a reply to be given to this question and does he intend going to a court of law ?

Pandit Faqir Chand: Yes, Sir, I want a reply to this question and if that reply is satisfactory, I may not go to a court of law, but if it is unsatisfactory, I might like to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, I want to know how this matter is connected with the question of a matter being sub-judice or not. The question now before the House is quite simple, whether Pandit Faqir Chand M.L.A. was unanimously elected as President of the Amritsar Municipal Committee, and if so, whether the Government was guilty of any irregularity in not publishing his name in the gazette and consequently whether the Government was liable to pay any penalty. Has the High Court to decide whether Pandit Faqir Chand was unanimously elected as President?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes, that is exactly the question, whether he was legally elected. The next question, please.

NATIONALIZATION OF TRANSPORT.

*1451. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

(a) the details of the proposal formulated by the Government for the nationalization of transport in the state;

(b) the name of the routes which have so far been taken over;

(c) whether any deputation of the transporters recently waited upon the Government; and if so, with what result ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) These details are embodied in the schedule of new expenditure presented to the Legislative Assembly.

(b) The following routes have so far been taken over as a part of the Local Bus Services at Jullundur and Amritsar for exclusive operation or in competition with the existing operators:

1. Basti Baba Khel-City Railway Station.
2. City Railway Station & Cantt. Railway Station.
3. Civil Secretariat & Sadar.
4. D. A. V. College & Sadar Bazar.
5. D. A. V. College & City Railway Station.
6. Railway Station & Basti Guzan.
7. City Railway Station & Kartarpur.
8. Adda Nakodar & Lambra.
9. City Railway Station to Adampur.
10. District Courts & Kapurthala.
11. Jullundur & Amritsar.
12. Jullundur & Phagwara.
13. Jullundur to Kung Sabu.
14. Model Town-Basti Sheikhan.
15. Chatiwind Gate to District Courts via Hall Gate.
16. Chatiwind Gate to District Courts via Lohgarh Gate.
17. Hall Gate to Khalsa College.
18. Railway Station to Chheharta Town.
19. Railway Station to Mehta Brothers (Chheharta).
20. Lohgarh Gate to Gopal Nagar.
21. Hall Gate to Verka.
22. Hall Gate to Jandiala.
23. Railway Station to Raja Sansi.
24. Hall Gate to Attari Border.
25. Hall Gate to Chabbal.
26. Chatiwind Gate to Tarn Taran.
27. Ram Bagh to Majitha.

(c) Transporters have been seeing the Government from time to time. Their views are being given due consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if there is any difference between the proposal formulated by the previous Ministry and the present Ministry ?

Minister: The hon. Member is referred to the Budget of 1950-51.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that Government had previously placed a scheme in connection with this nationalization before the House and the construction of Hoshiarpur-Dharamsala Road was also included in it. Is it also a fact that this Scheme also included the nationalization of Pathankot-Kulu Transport ?

Chief Minister : No, it is not a fact. Government has not placed any such scheme before the House. The details of the scheme as already referred to above in the original reply, are embodied in the Schedule of the New-Expenditure.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the previous Ministry had also formulated any such scheme ?

Chief Minister : I regret I cannot disclose any Cabinet secrets.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: When have these proposals been formulated by the Government in connection with this Nationalization ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

OMNIBUS SERVICE IN AMRITSAR

***1492. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) the dates of commencement of the Omnibus Service in the Amritsar town itself and in the district ;
- (b) the name of the places covered by this service ;
- (c) its total income and expenditure up-to-date ;
- (d) the number of accidents which have occurred up-to-date ;
- (e) the total number of accidents which proved fatal ;
- (f) the number of drivers or other employees punished for traffic offences so far ;
- (g) the nature of punishment inflicted on each of them ;
- (h) the compensation, if any, given to the injured persons together with their names and the amount given in each case ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

- (a) 14-12-1948 in both cases.
- (b) Chheharta, Verka, Jandiala, Raja Sansi, Attari-Wagah Border, Chabhal, Taran Taran, Majitha, District-Courts, Putlighar and lobgrah.
- (c) Total income and expenditure upto 31. 1. 50 was Rs. 11, 18, 076/14/9 and Rs. 9, 72, 461/12/8 respectively.
- (d) Five.
- (e) Two.
- (f) Three.
- (g) Ram Singh driver- six months' rigorous imprisonment.
2. Harbansh Singh Mechanic one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500/-.
3. Kehar Singh Conductor: A fine of Rs. 40/-.
- (h) Rs. 400/- were paid as compensation to S. Ujjagar Singh of Attari for the loss of his buffalo. Payment of compensation is ordered by the magistrate in accordance with facts of each case.

NATIONALIZATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

***1493. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposes to nationalize the road transport in the Punjab, if so, when;
- (b) whether any protest was made by the private Transport Companies; if so, the nature thereof;

- (c) whether it is a fact that Simla—Kalka and Pathankot—Kulu routes have been nationalized, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

- (a) Yes, from the year 1950-51.
- (b) Some representations and resolutions against Nationalization from the existing transport companies have been received and they have been and are being given due consideration.
- (c) No. These routes form part of the first year's programme as approved by the Cabinet in November, 1949. The decision is to be finalized. Preliminary arrangements are in progress.

DISPUTES BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

***1519. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several district congress committees, and the Punjab State (Provincial) Congress Committee have submitted concrete proposals to the Government for resolving the disputes between the landlords and tenants who have threatened to offer satyagrah by refusing to quit lands in case early steps are not taken to remove their grievances; if so, the steps Government contemplate to take in order to remove the genuine grievances of the tenants?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Proposals submitted by District and State Congress Committees concerning relief to the tenants are under consideration of the Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: May I know if it is a fact that this matter has been under the consideration of the Government since August 1947 and that whenever this matter is brought to their notice it is said that this matter is under the consideration of the Government ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: How long will it remain under the consideration of the Government ?

Minister: My reply is there and I have nothing to add to it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that the Provincial Congress Committee recommended to the Government that these tenants should not be removed for 3 years at least ?

Minister: It is not in the public interest to disclose the recommendations.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Where is the public interest in it ?

Minister: We are here to judge that and not the hon. Member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: If that be so, God save us from such Public interest.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has any hon. Minister announced in the public meetings that this matter is under the active consideration of the Government ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Since how long has this matter been under the consideration of the Government ?

Chief Minister: Since the time the Provincial Congress Committee discussed it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Was this matter ever under consideration before Provincial Congress Committee discussed it ?

Chief Minister: Since a long time back.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Is it a fact that the hon. Members approached the Chief Minister and threatened him to the effect that they would withdraw their support in case an Ordinance was not promulgated to give protection to the tenants ?

Chief Minister: No one approached me. What the hon. Member says is not based on facts. He may be labouring under a disillusion.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Is it a fact that it was announced in public that they would soon be bringing in a Bill to this effect ?

Chief Minister: Yes, it is a fact. It was one of their demands.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: How much time will it take the Government to promulgate an Ordinance or bring in a Bill to this effect ?

Chief Minister: As soon as it will be ready.

HOUSE RENT FOR EVACUEE PROPERTY

***1348. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to State:—

- (a) whether Government has received representations that the rents at present charged for the evacuee property are generally too high and the refugees occupying it are unable to pay these rents;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the towns like Jhajjar in District Rohtak large number of refugees being unable to pay the rent have abandoned and left the town;
- (c) the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Yes from certain quarters only.
- (b) A representation was received from several teachers of the Government High School, Jhajjar, to the effect that the rents of evacuee houses are too high. The matter was enquired into and it was found that the rents assessed were fair.
- (c) In cases where the rent charged is too high or too low in respect of evacuee property Government have decided to re-assess such properties on fair rent basis. Orders in this connection have already been issued to all district officers.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Which are those places from where the Government received complaints to the effect that the rent assessed was too high. Has the Government issued any instructions in the cases of those quarters where rent charged is comparatively too high. Which are those places ?

Minister: So far as places are concerned, I require notice. As regards the other part of the question, in many cases rent has been reduced after re-assessment.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: What are the reasons of assessing the rent of these properties at such high rates ?

Minister: So far as the representation from Jhajjar is concerned, the matter was enquired into and it was found that the rents assessed were fair. About other places, I have already given my reply.

Shri Virendra: What is the meaning of "fair rent basis"?

Minister: Fair means fair.

Shri Virendra: What will be the basis of 'fair rent'?

Minister: Generally it means the reasonable rent of a house.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it a fact that in West Punjab the refugees who are allotted properties of Hindus and Sikhs are paying only 20 per cent rent and the rest of 80 per cent is remitted in their favour, while as in this province cent per cent rent is being charged for the evacuee property?

Minister: We have no official information. We read it in newspapers only.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if this 33% rent which has been realized would be remitted to Pakistan or distributed amongst the refugees here ?

Minister: Government has already decided not to have any exchange of rent etc., This amount will, however, be distributed amongst those refugees who have left their property in Pakistan.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Have not several deputations pointed out to the Government that any increase in rents would be a great hardship for the refugees ?

Mr. Speaker: This is an expression of opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that 75 per cent of the rent receipts are spent to cover the establishment expenditure of the department entrusted with the work of collection ?

Minister: No, this is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Then may I know the difference between the income from rents and the expenditure incurred in connection with the collection work ?

Minister: I want notice for this.

Seth Ganga Saran: How much rent has so far been realised ?

Minister: For this too, notice is required.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Doesn't the Government think that by increasing the rents of evacuee property, it will be raising its value too ?

Minister: No, the Government does not think so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: When shall the amount realized as rent from evacuee property be distributed among those who have a right to it ?

Minister: They will get their share out of this money, when the assessment of properties left by them in West Punjab is completed.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS ABANDONED BY MUSLIM EVACUEES

***1423. Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of Industrial concerns abandoned by Muslim evacuees in the Punjab;
- (b) the total number given on lease, and the total amount of lease money per annum;
- (c) the total amount due as on 31—12—49;
- (d) the total amount realised as on 31—12—49;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to realise the arrears;
- (f) the total amount realised by sale of stocks in the factories?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) 1513.
- (b) (1) 1112.
(2) Rs. 14,39,844/14/-.
- (c) Rs. 18,42,188/13/4.
- (d) Rs. 5,80,523/5/10.
- (e) A large number of lessees of industrial establishments had claimed exemption from payment of lease money due to non-availability of electric energy or non-supply of raw material and other reasons. All disputes between such lessees and the Custodian are being resolved and the Assistant Custodians are giving top priority to the question of collection of lease money. It is hoped that by the end of April a very substantial proportion of the lease money will have been recovered.
- (f) Rs. 9,40,181/11/6.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Was it not stipulated as a condition of the lease that if they failed to pay the money within six months, allotment would be cancelled?

Minister: We don't want to cause them hardships.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: How and why did this complaint about non-availability of electricity arise?

Minister: At the very outset the Government had given them the idea that it would be difficult to supply them electricity and it was for this reason that later on it expressed its willingness to consider the desirability of giving concessions in individual cases of hardship.

Shri Virendra: Does this decision apply to industrial concerns only or all concerns?

Minister: Industrial concerns only.

Shri Virendra: Why only industrial concerns?

Minister: As Pakistan had reduced the rents, it was decided to do the same here too, despite the fact that factories had been allotted by inviting tenders. Later on, the Government of India decided that this money belongs to those who have left behind concerns in West Punjab and so it should be realised in full. Since these were allotted on lease, there is no reason why the full amount of the rents should not be realised.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LANDS

***1424. Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the date on which the work of quasi-permanent allotment of lands in Punjab was under-taken by the Government;
- (b) the strength of the staff employed as on 30-11-49 for the above work;
- (c) the total expenses incurred upto 31-12-49 for the above work;
- (d) the travelling allowance paid to the Director General (Rural) from 1-1-49 to 12-12-49;
- (e) the travelling allowance paid to the Financial Commissioner (Rehabilitation) during the year 1949?

The hon Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

(a) 9th March, 1948.

(b) Strength of the staff employed on 30-11-49 excluding that of Pepsu was as under:-

1. Establishment & Accounts officer.	1
2. Superintendent.	1
3. Superintendent Records.	1
4. Deputy Superintendents.	2
5. Tahsildars.	8
6. Assistant Land claims Officers.	4
7. Assistants.	22
8. Cashier.	1
9. Claims Assistants.	2
10. Naib Tahsildars.	20
11. Claim Assistants on consolidated pay.	12
12. Medical officer.	1
13. Stenographers.	3
14. Assistant to L.C.O.	1
15. Senior Clerks.	31
16. Nazir.	2
17. Sadar Kanungo.	1
18. Field Kanungoes.	102
19. Draftsman.	1
20. Senior Clerk on consolidated pay.	1
21. Kanungoes (Senior Clerk) consolidated pay.	48
22. Junior Clerks.	85
23. Typists.	3
24. Assistant Nazir.	1
25. Junior Clerks including patwaries junior Clerks.	615
26. Supervisor.	1
27. Sanitary Inspector.	1
28. Sanitary Daroga.	1
29. Dispenser.	1
30. Ward Orderly.	1
31. Daftries.	3
32. Peons (including 205 peons cooks).	435
33. Menial Staff.	167

[Minister for Rehabilitation.]

Revenue Staff.

1. Patwaris.	3196
2. Kanungoes.	277
3. Tahsildars & Naib Tahsildars.	117

(c) Rs. 84,01,246.

(d) Rs. 3,874/7/-.

(e) Rs. 3,751/7/-.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND

***1425 Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of applications and complaints received in the Rehabilitation Department upto 30th November, 1949, against allotment of lands under the quasi-permanent scheme;
- (b) the total number of such applications which were rejected;
- (c) the nature of irregularities discovered as a result of scrutiny of innumerable complaints;
- (d) the number of complaints of corruption and illegal gratifications against Rehabilitation Officers received upto date and the action so far taken by the Government against the Officers concerned?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

- (a) 1,13,420.
From 6-10-49 to 30-11-49.
- (b) 57,393.
- (c) The only irregularity discovered as a result of scrutiny of allotment on these applications was that 6535 sitting allottees had been wrongly ousted. Out of the total number of applications received 23775 were duplicate applications and the bulk of the rest related to requests for bringing close relations together in the matter of allotment and to inclusion of rights which for lack of sufficient proof had not been included earlier at the time of preparation of claims and for correction of khasra numbers. Applications on these three matters are not classed as those relating to any irregularities.
- (d) No account has been kept of complaints of corruption received direct from public. Such complaints are few. Allegations of corruption are contained in Intelligence reports against 44 Officers. On examination of the records, prima facie case for further inquiry has been made out against 2 Tahsildars, 2 Naib Tahsildars, 2 Kanungoes and 7 patwaris who have been placed under suspension.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Out of the applications received, how many people will be allotted land at the places close to their relatives?

Minister: 26619 applications related to requests for bringing close relations in the matter of allotment of land of which 10422 persons have been allotted land accordingly.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Since Government has stopped entertaining further applications, may I know what would become of those persons who have not applied so far?

Minister: At first 30th November 1949 was the last date for submitting such applications. Subsequently the date was extended with a view to afford

opportunity to those who could not apply before that date. Applications of one lac persons have so far been received. The Government do not propose to extend the date further.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Government not aware that the notices of the Government that are published in the newspapers are not read by the rural public ?

Minister: Besides informing the public through newspapers the publicity Department of the Government was instructed to inform the public in the rural areas by beat of drums that the last date of submission of applications was 30th November, 1949. There is hardly any refugee in the province who does not know about it.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if any application was entertained by the Government after the expiry of this date ?

Minister: I do not know of any such case.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is it a fact that after the expiry of this date oral applications are being made to the hon. Minister ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if any case of corruption has been registered ?

Minister: Such persons have been placed under suspension.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether such cases of corruption have been registered by the police ?

Minister: I require notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does the Government consider it sufficient to place such persons under suspension or propose to award any other punishment?

Minister: No punishment can be awarded unless the allegations of corruption are proved.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know what action has been taken by the Government against the persons charged for the offence of corruption. Why were cases not instituted against them ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that the Government informed the Intelligence Department that the Government does not propose to register such cases ?

Chief Minister: It is absolutely wrong.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if any case was registered ?

Minister: The Government has taken action by placing under suspension the officials concerned. Further inquiry is in progress and if they are found guilty they will be dismissed.

Chief Minister: Complaints of corruption which are received by the Government are fully inquired into. If prima facie case is made out against any person it is sent to the court. If it is considered necessary to take departmental action, the person concerned is afforded full opportunity to defend himself and then necessary action is taken against him.

Shrimati Sita Devi: The Government has stated that allegations of corruption have been made against Tehsildars, Kanungoes and Patwaris, may I know if any complaint of corruption has been made against any highly placed officer?

Minister: No such complaint has been received.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Is it not a fact that in case any complaint of corruption is made against any highly placed officer, his supporters reach the authorities to hush up the case?

REFUGEE CAMPS

***1452. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State:-

- (a) the total expenditure incurred on refugee Camps upto date;
- (b) how long these camps are likely to last;
- (c) how many camps are being run at present and the monthly expenditure thereon;
- (d) when the Government will get these camps vacated?

The hon. Dr Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Rs.9,02,93,790 upto December, 1949.
- (b) Gratuitous relief in the general camps has already been liquidated. The camps now exist primarily for providing accommodation to the displaced persons, and for this purpose mud-huts have been constructed at the camp sites. The question of closing down the camps, therefore, does not arise.
- (c) 26 camps including Women Homes. Monthly expenditure now comes to nearly Rs. 5 lacs.
- (d) Refer to (b) above.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if any accommodation is being provided by the Government to the displaced persons who were in the camps?

Minister: 13,000 mud huts have been constructed for this purpose and 3,000 more mud-huts will be ready by the end of June or July this year.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know whether the expenditure in this connection has been met out of the grant provided in the budget for this year or the last year?

Minister: This expenditure has been met out of the budget of last year. New budget has not yet been presented before the House.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does hon. Minister, being a doctor, approve the idea of putting 13 or 14 persons into one room?

Minister : A room has been given to 5 persons and I think this is what a poor Government can do for its poor people. Being a doctor also I think such a thing will not affect the health of these people.

Sant Narindar Singh : What has been done for the dislocated tenants?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has the Government prepared some scheme according to which facilities provided in the camps are to be cut down?

Minister : Generally speaking there are no facilities now in the camps. Facilities are being provided only to women and disabled persons.

Sardar Bachan Singh : But are not the Camp Commandants, Supervisors and Sanitary Inspectors still existing in the camps?

Minister : At present they do, but gradually they will be liquidated. Sanitary arrangements will of course continue.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The decision regarding 5 persons to a room appears only to be on paper. The fact is that about 12 persons have been kept in one room.

Minister : I also go to the camps and know facts. A family with 5 persons is allotted one quarter. In case there are more persons in a family it is given 2 quarters. The quarters are so built that 2 quarters can easily be converted into one.

LOAN TO REFUGEE FOR REPAIR TO EVACUEE HOUSES

***1453. Shri Bhagat Ram Chadha :** Will the hon. Minister the Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government is advancing any loans to refugees for the repairs of urban muslim houses?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : No. Since all evacuee property vests in the Custodian, the Custodian is himself making arrangements for repairs to such property. The Government have sanctioned a sum of five lakhs to the Custodian for this purpose and this sum is being utilized by the Custodian in consultation with the Superintending Engineers of the two circles concerned.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chadha : Will money be given to different deserving people?

Minister : Money will be given for carrying out repairs to the houses.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chadha : Will repairs be carried out by the Government or people themselves?

Minister : If the required amount does not exceed a certain limit the occupants of the houses will be entitled to get the work done. In case it exceeds the limit, work will be attended to by the P. W. D.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will any discrimination be made between the different people?

Minister : The sum to be given is not a loan. It is only to meet the cost of repairs to houses?

Shrimati Sita Devi : Perhaps I was not quite explicit. I wish to know whether preference will be given to certain people when this amount is given for repair of houses?

Chief Minister: Money will be given for deserving houses and not to deserving people.

OCCUPATION OF MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTY BY NON-REFUGEES

*** 1487. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

- (a) whether inspite of the instructions of the Government to the contrary some inhabitants of the Punjab who are not refugees are still in the wrongful occupation of the Muslim Evacuee Property, houses and shops ;
- (b) the action Government proposes to take against such offenders ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Yes, in some cases.
- (b) Instructions have been issued to officers of the Custodian Department in the Punjab to evict all such persons and it is also proposed to institute criminal proceedings in suitable cases.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not a fact that certain houses are being occupied by some respectable local men and the Government is knowingly taking no steps to get them vacated ?

Minister : Enquiry is at once made as and when Government is informed that some house is in the possession of a local person. But at times immediate eviction is not possible as recourse is to be had to law courts.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is a bungalow being occupied by an hon. Member?

Chief Minister : Yes, but his possession is authorized.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that some evacuee property is in the possession of some local men for the last two years and the Government though aware of it has taken no steps to recover the same from them ?

Chief Minister : Steps are immediately taken when Government is in receipt of information.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is there any rule under which Muslim evacuee property can be allotted to local men ?

Minister : Muslim evacuee property cannot be allotted to local men.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that whether in an authorized or an unauthorized manner some local men are occupying some houses ?

Chief Minister : Some houses have been allotted to local men after having been requisitioned by the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What is the definition of 'authorised occupation' ?

Chief Minister : Kindly consult the dictionary.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Please answer my question.

Chief Minister : I have answered.

CLAIM FOR ALLOTMENT OF LAND

***1494. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of claims for allotment of land registered so far;
- (b) the total number of permits issued so far;

- (c) the total number of allottees who have taken possession of such lands so far ;
- (d) the total number of acreage of land allotted so far ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

- (a) The total number of land claims received from displaced persons is 470, 152, but the number considered eligible for allotment in East Punjab and PEPSU on the basis of claims prepared from jamabandis received from Pakistan is 483, 611.
- (b) 4, 38, 000.
- (c) Exact number is not known so far. Possession of vacant land is being passed to allottees since 15th of December, 1949.
- (d) 1, 591, 187 standard acres.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth. By when will this work finish ?

Minister: It is almost finished.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Can the hon. Minister give the exact date when possession will be given to the refugees ?

Minister: They will get it in June.

Shrimati Sita Devi: June of which year ?

Minister: June of the year of grace 1950. Lands will be given over to the allottees immediately after they are vacated.

Sardar Bachan Singh: What is the number of East Punjab claims ?

Minister: These are claims of those who have come from the West Punjab as refugees. There cannot be any claims from East Punjab.

Sardar Bachan Singh: I mean number of men who have been given land in East Punjab and not in Pepsu.

Minister: This question can be answered after notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE MOGA

392. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any complaint by Shri Banwari Lall, Municipal Commissioner, Moga, containing allegations of Mal-administration against the Moga municipality was received by the Government in the month of December 1949 ; if so, the nature of the allegations;

(b) whether any enquiry was made by the Government into the allegations made; if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the compound of the grain market at Moga which is municipal property any temporary buildings have been erected;

(d) whether the permission of the Municipal Committee, Moga was obtained before constructing these buildings; if so, when;

(e) whether any rent was fixed by the Municipality for the buildings mentioned in part (c) above;

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, the total rent received by the said Municipal Committee from the tenants of these buildings

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

and the amount of arrears of rent respectively for the year 1949-50, upto 31st January, 1950;

(g) whether any steps were taken by the said Municipal Committee for the recovery of the arrears of rent due; if so, the result thereof;

(h) the date from which the rent due from each of the defaulting tenants has not been realised?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) Yes, the following were the allegations :—

(i) free use of open court yard in the grain market by the relatives and friends of a Municipal Commissioner ;

(ii) illegal auction of cement bags ;

(iii) unauthorised projections ;

(iv) misappropriation and forgery etc. committed by the Octroy Superintendent, Moga ;

(v) wrong payment to the municipal staff ;

(vi) illegal election of the President.

(b) Yes, most of the allegations were found baseless. Suitable action is being taken against the defaulters.

(c & d) No, only temporary and movable wooden stalls have been erected with the permission of the Municipality.

(e) Yes, *tehbazari* fee on daily basis is being charged.

(f) The exact amount realized for the grain market cannot be given as there are no separate figures for this area. The arrears amount to Rs. 600/-.

(g) Yes, notices were issued and steps for the removal of the stalls are being taken.

(h) the *tehbazari* fee is due for the year 1949-50 only.

—————
PROHIBITION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OR PROCESSIONS.

393. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the periods during which public meetings or processions were prohibited in each of the districts of the State under the provisions of section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Public Safety Ordinance or Act in the period from 15 8 47 to 15 2.50 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargva : A statement is laid on the table.

—————
WATER SUPPLY AT POLICE STATION PATTI

394. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the water supply arrangements at police Station Patti, district Amritsar, referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 292 put by me during the Autumn Session of the Assembly of 1949, have been completed ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

Kept in the Library.

- (b) whether any steps were taken by the Public Works Department upto 15-2-50 to take the work in hand ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

- (a) Not yet, the work has been entrusted to a contractor by P. W. D.
 (b) The P. W. D. expect to have it completed within the current financial year.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN VILLAGE DAUDPURA, TAHSIL PATTI, DISTT. AMRITSAR.

395 Sardar Sajjan Singh:- Will the hon Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the names of the persons belonging to village Crara, Tehsil Kasur who were allotted lands temporarily at village Daudpura, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar during the year 1947-48;
 (b) the names of the aforesaid allottees who had put in their claims for land during the year 1948 with the Land Claims Officer, East Punjab Government, Jullundur;
 (c) the total area of land claimed by each of the aforesaid allottees;
 (d) the total area of land which each one of these allottees owned according to the revenue records received from Pakistan Government;
 (e) (i) Whether any of the aforesaid allottees had put in a claim for land in excess of the land owned by him in Pakistan; if so, the names of such allottee;
 (ii) the difference in the area of land claimed by him and that shown in the revenue records received from Pakistan Government;
 (f) whether the aforesaid allottees referred to in part (e) (i) and (e) (ii) will be prosecuted under Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act of 1947 for having made a false declaration?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

- (a) A list is placed on the table*
 (b) A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the table*
 (f) Under the latest instructions cut has to be applied according to the amount of exaggeration subject to a maximum of 60%. The scale is placed on the table. Only those persons are now to be prosecuted whose claims are totally false.

DEAD BODIES SENT BY THE POLICE FOR POST MORTEM EXAMINATION.

396. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of dead bodies sent by police of each district for post mortem examination in each month during the year 1948 and 1949 separately?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: A statement giving the required information is placed on the table*.

*Kept in the Library.

AIDED SCHOOLS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

397. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number and names of Middle and High Schools in the Amritsar district which received aid from the Government during the year 1949-50 ;
- (b) the amount given as grant-in-aid by the Government to each of the aforesaid school during this period ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: A statement is laid on the table*.

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN THE STATE

398. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total quantity of opium consumed in each district of the State during the year 1946-47, 1948-49 and the 1st 9 months of 1949-50;
- (b) the sale price of the opium per tola fixed by the Government in each district during the period referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) A statement is laid on the table*.
- (b) For the financial year 1946-47 the sale price of excise opium was fixed at the rate of Rs. 3/7/ per tola. For the financial year 1948-49 and for the period from the 1st April, 1949, to the 31st December, 1949, however, no fixed sale price was enforced and the licensees were at liberty to charge the price they liked.

AEROPLANES PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT

399. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of the aeroplanes purchased by the Government for touring purposes ;
- (b) the date of purchase of each of these aeroplanes ;
- (c) total cost borne by the Government for the purchase of these aeroplanes ;
- (d) the total expenses involved for the maintenance, petrol and the pilot upto 31st January, 1950 ;
- (e) the names of the hon. Ministers and other Government officers who travelled by air in these aeroplanes up to 31st January 1950 ;
- (f) the total number of miles travelled by each of the gentlemen referred to in part (e) above upto 31st January, 1950 ;
- (g) the Travelling Allowance drawn by each of them up to 31st January 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : A statement is laid on the table of the House*.

*Kept in library.

Mr. Speaker: The Assembly will now resume discussion of the Address by Governor.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) Sir, I crave the indulgence of the House for speaking in a language which is foreign to many of us. With the advent of freedom, I feel that the narrow sentiments which existed before, have vanished and I have, therefore, got up to say a few words in the English language.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

It can be said about the speech of the ex-Finance Minister who was deputed by the Government to move a vote of thanks to His Excellency for his Address, that like the proverbial lover he started with a whisper and ended with a shriek. It is well nigh impossible to make any head or tail of what he said, but whatever little I have been able to make of his speech, Sir, has convinced me that it was more a speech of censure than a speech of thanks.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: On a point of order, Sir. Are personal references permitted on the floor of the House?

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No. Personal references are not permitted.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I was saying that the ex-Minister said during the course of his speech that there was no mention of a policy about industrialization, no mention of facilities for the industrialists and for the labour and no solution for the refugee problem and so on and so forth. The speech which was supposed to thank His Excellency has simplified matters for me. This much for what he thought of the Address.

Now coming to the Address itself. As I skipped over the pages of the Address of His Excellency, a very famous sentence which Disraeli spoke came to me. When Prince Consort entered the Parliament, Disraeli who was the Prime Minister of England then, said, "I smell a stranger". When I look to the pages of the Address I smell a betrayal, a betrayal that has no parallel, a betrayal that has no comparison, a betrayal of the masses who have entrusted their destinies to our hands. We who are never sick of talking in season and out of season about their welfare have betrayed them. This Address, if at all it contains anything, contains promises. It is full of promises—promises which are never to be redeemed. Sir, this is a black Address and does not invoke any confidence in the masses.

Then, Sir, I am forced to look at the faces sitting in front of me—faces which adorn the Government benches. In these faces when I look for vision. It is not there. When I look for brains I am disappointed. When I look for imagination I look in vain. If our friends have no vision of their own, if our friends have no imagination of their own, why do they not resort to any of the three well known methods? I shall analyse them. To steal: That requires some courage which they do not possess. To beg. They do not beg because they have false notions of dignity. So far as borrowing is concerned, I can assure them that we are their friends; they are one of us; they are bones of our bones and flesh of our flesh; they can rely on us and if they ask for our veins we will give them our veins as well. But the pity is that the Government does not get the maximum advantage of the representatives of the State. Wedded to the party and petty affairs, it does not care to have the guidance and support of the people who are in a position to give them that guidance and support.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

His Excellency the Governor laid emphasis on this point in his speech that dacoits have been liquidated. There is no doubt that many dacoits who were a source of trouble to a few individuals have been liquidated but I regret to say that a large number of social and political dacoits still enjoy the same, perhaps a greater, amount of freedom as they did in the earlier regime.

Now, Sir, I come to the location of the Capital. It has been decided to locate the capital at Chandigarh and it is proposed to start with the construction of the town. In this connection, I think the Government is depending upon the maxim "Let there be light and there was light". They think that the foreign expert will wave a magic wand and the capital would come into being. I would like to disillusion them that the capital will not come into being merely by the waving of a magic wand. There are very many things necessary to construct the town and make it a success. The British Government took twenty years to make New Delhi and for that purpose they sought the help of Rajas, Maharajas and big jagirdars and it became a success only at the time of the beginning of the World War. I fail to understand how our Government which has lost the confidence of the people expects that new experiment of locating the capital at a far-flung place away from the centre of activities will be a success. I appeal to our Government most earnestly that it is time that we girded up our loins and that true to our noble professions we made an earnest endeavour to serve the masses who have entrusted their destinies to us and not a few hangers-on and yes-men who enjoy power! (*Hear hear.*) Sir, I want to impress upon the Government that if we fail this time, the coming generations would curse us; posterity would say that their forefathers had eyes but did not see; if they saw, they did not feel; if they felt, they did not realise; if they realised, they did not act and if ever they acted, they did so in the interests of a few henchmen and not for those toiling millions who had been displaced as a result of the partition of the country. The feeling of a man in the street on the Address of His Excellency the Governor is aptly translated in the following verse:-

देने वाले क्या दिया तू ने मुझे देते वाले बिआ दीआ तू ने मुझे
मुफलसी अफलास और शाहाना दिल मुडलसी अडलास और साहाना दिल

The powers that be dream beautiful dreams while an average citizen of the State is steeped in misery and starvation. His hunger cannot be satisfied by the empty words contained in the Address.

Yesterday a friend of the Government who occupies a seat behind the Leader of the House appealed to us in the name of the country to be loyal to the Government during this time of emergency. I am reminded of what a poet friend wrote-

खूने जमहूर, से भीगे हुए परचम लेकर धूने जमहूर से भीगे हुए परचम ले कर
मुझ से अफादे हकूमत ने वक्ता मांगी है मुझ से अफादे हकूमत ने वक्ता मांगी है ॥

As for me, I stand by my country for the love of my motherland. If my country needs my hand, I will not hesitate to give my head. At the same time I expect the Government to take upon itself the task of serving the people in the true sense of the term. The Government should not rest content with giving mere plans which are mostly paper plans but should come up to the expectations of the people at large as in this and this only lies the salvation of the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor was really of a very high order and for that we should feel thankful to him. Ninety per cent of the speeches delivered by His Excellency the Governor are prepared by the Cabinet. But in spite of this fact, his personal views have found spontaneous expression here and there in the Address. This thing is evident at page 8 of the Address where it is said:-

"Corruption is still prevalent; discipline is still not as strict as it should be and there is obviously considerable scope for increasing efficiency and reducing delays".

Along with this, His Excellency has tried to gloss over these hard facts in order to maintain his position. He has therefore said that all cannot be accomplished at once and it would be done by and by. But so far as I know from my personal contact with His Excellency and Lady Trivedi, both of them have great regard for the people of the State and they want to improve their lot. I have had the privilege of working under the leadership of Lady Trivedi in the field of relief work and Red Cross work. I, therefore, know that they want to see the State progressing and they have every sympathy with the people. If His Excellency had not been only a constitutional head, I am sure his Address would have been materially different. His feelings have found spontaneous expression which shows how much he feels for the miserable people of our State. Corruption is rampant and without bribe even the meanest thing cannot be done. Discipline is hopeless and about delays, the less said the better. Here is a case of the uselessness of clothes after the Id. His Excellency does feel for the poor and miserable people but he too is helpless.

ਆ ਅੰਦਲੀਬ ਮਿਲ ਕੇ ਕਰੋਂ ਆਹੋਜ਼ਾਰਿਆਂ ਆ ਅੰਦਲੀਬ ਮਿਲ ਕੇ ਕਰੋਂ ਆਹੋ ਜ਼ਾਰੀਆਂ ।

So in this respect he too is like us; we can only cry but we are helpless.

Anyway we are now discussing the Government policy as declared in His Excellency's Address. He has expressed his sympathy for the agriculturist on page six of his Address, taking into consideration his importance.

"He is our base and our foundation; him we must reach and that too most effectively; to him we must go constantly; him we must teach, him we must guide, him we must tell what to do and what not to do how to do, and how not to do."

These words really show that His Excellency has sympathy for the agriculturist. On the other hand, if we were to look to the policy of the Government, we find no such thing for the uplift of the rural people. Nothing is being done to improve the health and sanitation of the villages. Who does not know that in the villages the sanitary conditions are deplorable and medical facilities are most inadequate? How can any country, in which people get no medical aid for want of hospitals, make any progress? Our Government has expressed no intention of opening any hospitals or dispensaries in the rural areas even in future. At present the dispensaries, if there are any in the rural areas, have not adequate supplies of medicines. Under these circumstances I am forced to say that nobody here is willing to do anything for the uplift of the people, because we know where there is a will there is a way. It is very regrettable that nothing is being done for providing medical facilities to a section of our people who form 80 per cent of our total population. Whenever we say anything we hear the complaints of financial stringency and lack of funds. I say this is only a lame excuse. Money can be found provided the will is there. The lack of doctors can also be made up. Why doesn't the Government make it compulsory for all lady doctors to practise in the

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rural areas for a period before actually giving the degrees. In addition to that I think two or three years' practice in the villages should be made a condition precedent to the selection of doctors for Government service. All facilities should be provided and public opinion should be created so that the doctors may find it attractive to work in the villages.

Now I wish to let the hon. Members know something about the condition of anti-malaria work in our villages. It is surprising that at present the anti-malaria Units function in no other districts except Gurgaon and Karnal. Does it mean that there is no malaria in other districts? Have our villages become so clean overnight that no malaria occurs and so the need for anti-malaria operations does not arise at all? Here I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that a sum of rupees thirty thousand was granted to the Municipal Committee of Amritsar provided the Committee spent an equal sum from its resources on anti-malaria work. If this sum is considered necessary for Amritsar *i. e.* for the city people who constitute 22% of the population, why is no need felt for the rural population who live in dirtier conditions? In my opinion those living in the rural areas are neglected. No medical facilities are provided for them. Is there really no need for such facilities? I have seen the condition of villages. In the schools of Patti, I have been informed there are about 83% cases of spleen cases. In the villages there are 100% cases of malaria. But in spite of all this no medical advice or aid is made available. An M. Sc. or Ph. D. cannot possibly be of much help in such cases. Services of a doctor should have been utilized for the purpose. But I regret to note that no special care is being paid towards this important work.

Sir, the next thing to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is rural education. In this connection I wish to point out that recently there has been an increase in crime in our State. What can be the cause of this increase? Most surely it is the lack of proper educational facilities. Corruption and crime always increase where there is ignorance. If the mother is ignorant the children will grow up in an unwholesome atmosphere. If we give proper education to our villagers the crime will decrease and there will be no need for keeping so much Police force. Whenever any demand for the opening of schools in villages is put forth we are told that the finances do not allow such an action. But from where does the money come when the question is that of opening schools and colleges in the cities? In Amritsar for example, there are many schools and colleges and yet more are being started. What was the need for Bhargava College in Simla? It is said that the need for starting this college was felt because refugee students were to be provided for. But can refugee students afford to come to Simla for education and spend three hundred rupees a month? Such excuses cannot justify the wrong policy followed with regard to education. What we need is a proper understanding of the position. More amounts should be made available for the education of those living in rural areas. We have been spending a lot on the cities. But now the time has come when our Education Minister should look more to the needs of the village people. No excuses will stand. The lack of attention towards rural needs is evident from the fate of a village school in Amritsar which was opened some fifteen years ago. What to say of raising it to the middle standard; even recognition to its primary classes has not so far been given. Sir, I wish to draw the attention of our Government to such cases and request that justice be done. Lack of proper attention on the part of the authorities is the cause of the recent closing down of so many District Board schools. Sir, what I wish to submit is that the villagers, specially those living in the

border districts should be afforded medical, educational and other facilities so that their living conditions may be made attractive. People near the border live in a perpetual state of nervousness and danger. Their life can only be pleasant if they are provided all amenities of modern life. But the matters are just the opposite. Nobody listens to us. Sometime back I wrote a letter to the Director of Public Instruction in connection with a girl school at Ajnala. It has not even been replied to. If this is the state of affairs, how is it possible for us to face the people of our villages? They ask what is the use of your being in the Assembly and wasting time and money if no replies are given by the authorities concerned. Sir, I am forced to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members because the people blame us in such matters.

The next thing to which I must make reference in passing is the condition of roads in our rural areas. Transport difficulties present a great hindrance in the development of our villages. But I am sorry to note that no attention is being paid to this important matter. For instance a grant for the construction of a road from Batala to Fatehgarh in Ajnala Tehsil was sanctioned by the United Punjab Government. This item appeared in two Budget estimates but then it disappeared from the next year's Budget. There is no reason why such important schemes should be dropped. The condition of village Kucha Roads and foot paths is bad and nothing is being done to improve them. What to say of improvements, these roads are not even properly maintained and protected. Some of the farmers are constantly including portions of these paths in their fields. If representations against these practices are made the Patwaris somehow or other don't allow them to reach proper quarters with the result that no action is taken against the offenders. Such a state of affairs should be put an end to so that the conditions of village transport may improve. I had to make many more observation on the subject but since the time at my disposal is almost over, I would finish my remarks after saying a few words more. I find that on the one hand the Government is incurring immense expenditure on the construction of new townships but on the other if we ask it to make an adequate provision for the improvement of roads and sanitation in rural areas and provide them with the same medical and educational facilities as are being made available to our urban brethren, we receive stereotyped reply that due to financial stringency and for want of funds the rural uplift schemes could not be carried out. This is really a very sad state of affairs. It is most unfair to deny the amenities of life to those very people who are the mainstay of the provincial exchequer. With these words I close my remarks.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (Punjabi) : Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. But I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter which His Excellency omitted in his Address. In this era of freedom a considerable section of the people of Punjab comprising 25 per cent of the total population still has the feeling that the dawn of independence has not improved their lot. They still consider themselves slaves. These people are Harijans. His Excellency has not said a word about their uplift. In other words, the Government have not cared to devote any attention to the improvement of the hard lot of the Harijans. I would like to mention a few facts to show the miserable plight of these poor people. His Excellency during the course of his Address remarked that the serious crime in 1949 was substantially less than in 1948. I may point out that number of those crimes has dwindled down, which were committed by the dacoit in pillaging big zamindars and looting rich sahumars in the villages. But so far as molestation or murder of poor people is concerned, it is ever

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increasing. This number of crimes appears to be less mainly because the police refuse to record the F.I.R. lodged by the poor people who are the victims of the rowdy element. It is no exaggeration to say that even now no body in the villages can move out after dusk without running the risk of being molested or looted by gangsters. When these people go to sleep, they are not sure whether they would rise without any untoward incident in the night. They are ever apprehensive of a burglary or dacoity. So the crime is on the increase and as I have already stated, the number appears to be less because the reports of such occurrences are not recorded by the police.

Then, Sir, Government decided to provide certain educational facilities in the form of remission of fees and award of scholarships to the Harijan boys. But I can say without any fear of contradiction that no less than 50 per cent of schools and colleges, which duly received the circular of the Government for the grant of the above mentioned facilities to the Harijan boys, did not care to comply with it. They refused to grant any remission of fees to the Harijan boys. The Victor High School and Cantonment High School in Jullundur are instances to the point. The Headmaster of the Victor High School, when approached to grant remission of fees to the Harijan students, not only declined to do so but arrogantly asked the Harijans to take away their children and get them admitted somewhere else. Similarly in Allawalpur, the school authorities refused point blank to grant any remission in fees to the Harijan students. The Harijans of the place made a demonstration and threatened to demolish the school building if the fees of their children were not remitted. It was after great difficulty that this concession was extracted from the school authorities.

Besides, when His Excellency the Governor visited Jullundur, I apprised him of the fact that in rural areas tax on Harijans had been increased from three to twenty rupees and that they were hit hard. I requested His Excellency to move in the matter but he did not care to pay any heed to my request, as is clear from the Address which contains not a word in this connection. But what do we find in other spheres? Increase in abiana has proved a major headache to the Government because the hon. Members are not prepared for this enhancement by fifty per cent. They have opposed this move tooth and nail. Since might is right, Government is chary of embarking on this question. But what about the poor down-trodden Harijans? They have no voice in the enhanced tax that has been levied on them and nobody has cared to move his little finger in condemnation of this increase in the tax. Thus 25 per cent of the population suffers silently.

Then, Sir, the Harijans are being put to great hardship in the matter of housing accommodation in rural areas. While those zamindars who are asked to shift to other places, demolish the houses occupied by them, and sell away the wooden structures, the poor Harijans who happen to occupy such houses not only carry out repairs but try to improve their condition. But what happens is that notices of ejectment are served on them. This is the height of injustice that is being done to them. I would request the Government to look into the matter and redress their grievances.

Then His Excellency was pleased to remark that a huge amount of money had been earmarked for grow more food campaign. I may point out that mere appointment of Tehsildars and providing them with jeeps for touring the

villages in this connection will prove of no avail. These officers do nothing except making merry and enjoying good feasts at the cost of poor zamindars. I would request the Government to see that this amount is judiciously spent if it desires to achieve tangible results. No heed is being paid by the Government to the miserable condition of the tenants who have been doing this job even in Pakistan. They know nothing except agriculture by which they can eke out their living. Besides crores of rupees are being spent on the construction of model towns and industrial sites are being sold to the people, but the same have not been made available to the Harijans. I cannot help saying that this is not the Government of the common man. It is the Government of the capitalists, big zamindars and industrialists. The poor man has no place in it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Then why not come and join us ?

Master Gurbanta Singh : I know you very well. If your party comes into power, you will do things worse than the Congress Government. (*Hear, hear*). Well, Sir, I may sound a note of warning to the Government that time not far off when we will also wrest the power from their hands. We will teach a lesson to the big zamindars and industrialists who are now very hard upon us. We are getting stronger day by day.

It will not be out of place to mention here that Government has already passed the Social and Religious Disabilities Bill into Law. May I know as to how many persons have been punished under the provisions of this Law? To me it appears that the Law has not been enforced. It exists only on paper; otherwise it is a dead letter, because the Government has failed to enforce the provisions of the Law. Poor people are put to much inconveniences. They are being oppressed by the capitalist Government. I wish to bring this point home to the members of the Cabinet that if they want to continue functioning in this State then it is their bounden duty to help the poor and the down-trodden and thus improve their hard lot. It seems that they are unmindful of the conditions under which poor people in the rural areas are living at present. Their condition is deplorable. There are no schools and hospitals in the rural areas. There are no good roads. It is the intention of the Government to increase the revenue of the State by levying water rates and by nationalizing motor transport. Day in and day out ways and means are being devised to increase the revenue of the State but no efforts whatsoever have ever been made to open new schools, hospitals and roads in the rural areas. My hon. friend should not be surprised to hear that there are no roads in the villages for the movement of bullock carts. People are dissatisfied with the attitude of the Government. It will not be out of place to mention here that poor school teachers are very hard-hit and nothing substantial has so far been done to improve their lot. If timely assistance is got given to them I am afraid, they will resort to strike. The same is the case with the police constables who are required to spend from their own pocket on their daily shave, ironing of their clothes and other things as a result of which they are not left with any money to maintain their families. On the other hand we find that adequate arrangements are being made in towns in opening and also in maintaining schools, hospitals and roads. This is not all. People living in towns, who are afforded all sorts of facilities are moving out well dressed, whereas people living in rural areas are ill-fed, ill-clad and un-cared for. I appeal to the Government which claims to be the well wisher of the ruralites, in the name of God and humanity, to rise to the occasion and do something substantial to improve their hard lot. Perhaps the Government is unmindful of the fact that the majority of the population of this State belongs to the rural areas and if their conditions are not improved, they will be dissatisfied with it. I am really constrained to remark that it has been instrumental in creating

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chaos and confusion worse confounded in the rural areas. Perhaps it has forgotten that it is the people from the rural areas who are mostly recruited in the army and the police. The urbanites stand no comparison before them in this connection. But unfortunately the credit for being so much useful to the country in general and our State in particular, which should obviously go to the ruralites, is shared by the urbanites instead. I am really constrained to remark that ruralites in general and the Harijans in particular are being put to unnecessary inconveniences. Harijans are not looked after well. Forced labour (begar) is being exacted from them without any rhyme or reason. Policemen do not hesitate to tease their womenfolk, and if any voice is raised in protest before the authorities, they are not allowed to have their say. A very inhuman treatment is meted out to them whenever any hon. Minister or any high official tours those areas. Poor villagers are being misled and exploited. Even the true Congress workers have failed to set these things right. Any intervention on the part of the M.L.As. is not tolerated and efforts are being made to bring them into disrepute as a result of which they find it well-nigh impossible to do any substantial work. Officials have become haughty and ill-tempered. In the end I wish to point out that the address delivered by His Excellency the Governor does not contain any reference about the Harijans who are a great asset to the rural society. They are well versed in the art of cultivation. Without them there can be no cultivation. It is therefore but meet and proper on the part of Government to change its attitude towards them under the changed conditions and thus do something substantial for them.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rise to say a few words in regard to the motion now before the House. The House is aware of the fact that the majority of the population of our State is living in rural areas. In spite of this fact not a single word has been mentioned about them in the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor. It would have been in the fitness of things if some reference was made in the Address about the rural masses. After all it was not difficult to refer to certain figures regarding the rural population and these could have been made available. But I am constrained to remark that no such reference has been made in it. In fact some mention should have been made about the need of primary schools in the rural areas. In this connection I wish to point out that if the people of rural areas approach the authorities for opening primary schools in their villages, they are told that this is not the opportune time to make such arrangements. It will not be out of place to mention here that during the British regime it was always the policy of the Government to improve the lot of the poor in the towns only. This is not all. Ways and means were devised to improve the trade in the towns while the rural areas were totally ignored. It was and has been the policy of the Congress to afford all sorts of facilities to people living in rural areas. Even Mahatma Gandhi and his followers have more than once declared it in clear terms that more and more attention should be paid to improve the conditions in the rural areas. It will not be out of place to mention here that Article 45 of the Constitution lays down that the State shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. I am really constrained to remark that in spite of this provision in the Constitution our Government in general and His Excellency in particular has not referred to this point in his Address. May I know if any reference has been made in it about any programme for providing education to the ignorant rural masses?

No light has been thrown, no reference has been made to this problem in the Address. Now we shall be told that Government has no funds for improving the condition of rural people and providing them with amenities of civilized life. From the present economic condition of the province, it would be quite reasonable to infer that our Government will not have the necessary funds for another ten or fifteen years. So it is meaningless to say that we have no funds. It is the duty of the Government to find ways and means of raising funds. Whether this can be done by levying taxes on the urban population or by some other method, educational and other facilities have to be provided to the ruralites. I am really surprised to find that on the one hand the Government complains of lack of funds and on the other hand squanders money like anything. Let me give a few instances of this extravagance. It would open another high school at a place where already six schools are functioning. At another place which has two private colleges, the third will be run by the Government. In Simla, one college was already there; now another has been opened. Why are not all these unnecessary institutions closed and the saving effected thereby utilized for affording education to the children of rural people, people who form the bulk of the armed forces, who produce food for the whole country, whose contribution to the revenues to the maximum and who supply really all the labour for industrial and other undertakings? The Unionist Government was truly a Government of the zamindars. Alas, its like will never be seen again. Things have come to such a pass that people have started calling us Jats of Lala brand. When we do not allow the poor and backward sections even ordinary opportunities and amenities of civilized existence, why should we complain that they are misled by the lure of communism. What have we done for them that they should remain aloof? If they demand anything, they are put behind the prison bars. I must warn the Government that it will not be possible to befool them for all time to come. They were misled and hoodwinked in Russia and China for some time but ultimately they overthrew the Governments responsible for denying them their rights. You cannot checkmate the spread of communism by sweet words and promises. Something substantial and tangible must be done to satisfy them. But so far, I see no indication, that our Government is alive to the urgency of this problem of the upliftment of the rural people. Sometime back, probably in the last session, a resolution was brought before this House, recommending to the Government the principle of reservation of 75% of the posts for rural people, but the excuse of the Constitution forbidding discrimination, was put forward and the matter was dropped. I am surprised that on the one hand, educational facilities are not afforded to the rural people and on the other hand, they are asked to sit in competition with urban people, if they are desirous of Government employment. How can the people who have had no opportunity to get higher education be expected to fare well in competitions for Government jobs?

About the condition of country-side, so far as the means of transport are concerned, the less said the better. How can the hon. Ministers know the true condition of rural areas in the rainy season, when they do not tour those ilaqas except in winter months, and that too in motor cars? For a considerable part of the year, the 'kacha' roads and paths uniting the villages one to another, are in such a hopeless condition that even bullock carts cannot ply on them. So, for six months in a year, the poor zamindar remains cut off from all contact with the world, marooned in his small village. The zamindars don't ask the Government to construct tarred roads for them but only such roads as would be fit for traffic all the year round. There was no indication in the Address if the Government had any such plan under consideration, not to speak of any blue-print being prepared. (*Interruption*). How can then

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the Zamindars carry their produce to the markets? Those who are laughing will see for themselves that this country will go the way China has gone. Our Government is proving itself worse than the old Chinese Nationalist Government. Then there is the question of dispensaries and hospitals in rural areas. This Government has done nothing to make arrangements for providing medical aid to the villagers, who are being neglected in every respect. A few dispensaries were opened during the Unionist regime but now there is neither any stock of medicine nor are there any instruments in them. Even pen and paper are not to be found in them, and the Government is thinking of increasing the rate of 'abiana' when it is not prepared to provide the rural folk even the ordinary amenities of life. Already they are contributing so much to the Government offers and nothing is being spent on their welfare. How long can this state of affairs continue? How long can you expect a villager to walk 15 miles to get medical aid for his ailing children? How long can he see his near and dear ones dying of malaria for want of proper medical aid?

Then there is the burning problem of the day, tenants *versus* landlords, about which not a single word has been said in the Address. Notices of ejectment have been served on so many tenants, big and small, that a very grave problem has arisen for the State. At the party meeting held on the 25th February, 1950, it was decided to take some steps to afford relief to the tenants but nothing has so far been done in this connection. As our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, has so often said, even such small things are fraught with grave possibilities. We should not forget the lessons of China. A revolution is in the offing. Don't deprive the tiller of land of his means of livelihood. If every landlord begins the use of tractors and agriculture is mechanized, where will the landless peasants go? We urge the Government to find some satisfactory solution of this problem as early as possible. If it is really earnest about its 'Grow More Food' campaign, it is imperative that possession of evacuee land should be given over to the allottees as soon as possible. They are still assailed by doubts and a sense of uncertainty. They should be assured that by such and such date, the possession of land shall definitely be given over to them. If the ejectments of tenants continue, how will the Government be able to export rice, about which it has made an announcement?

Now I would say something in regard to Harijans. Hon. Members would recollect that about 2 years ago a resolution was passed in this House that the Harijan tenants may be made the proprietors of the land occupied by them. But the recommendation of the House has been put in the cold storage and no action has been taken by the Government to implement it. In every village the piece of land adjoining the houses of Harijans which was used as playground by their children has been allotted and the poor Harijans have been put to a great difficulty. Such matters have been brought to the notice of hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad but he has failed to give enthusiastic support to the Harijans. The Government does not appear to be taking keen interest in the welfare of this backward class of people. But it takes shelter behind the plea that the Punjab is a deficit province. If the Government continues to pursue an indifferent policy towards the Harijans, I think it will not get any financial aid from the Central Government in future. In these circumstances I would suggest that if we are not able to run the province for the benefit of the people, the Government should ask the Central Government for the merger of

Meerut Division from U. P. with the Punjab. If it is not possible, the Punjab should merge with Pepsu. Moreover, the appointment of three Financial Commissioners in a province comprising of twelve districts is a clear proof of the fact that there is top-heavy expenditure on the administration of this State. The present level of top-heavy administration leaves little scope for all round achievement in the province. In the past people had pinned great hopes on the Congress Government but they have now realised that this Government has proved to be a Lala (*Bania*) Government. I call it a Lala Government as it has given no relief to the lower middle class.

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is not justified in making such remarks.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I must appreciate the sense of self respect of my hon. Friend but I have said so, so that my hon. Friend may exert pressure upon the Government to do something for the betterment of the lower class of people. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, before I make a speech I would like to withdraw my amendment and support the motion made by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishana Gopal Dutt. I have had the opportunity of listening to the speeches of hon. Members yesterday on the motion. It is somewhat curious to find that some of my Friends who were in the Cabinet some-time back have also thought fit to level criticism on this motion. They have not perhaps realised that they also share the responsibility for the inadequacy of the past, if 4 P. M. any. The Governor's Address contained all Government and official activities covering a period of two and half years. So they cannot conscientiously absolve themselves of the responsibility which they shouldered sometime back. They should have supported the motion and should have come forward with the plea that any weaknesses which are visible in the administration are due to all vicissitudes through which this province had to pass. They should have frankly confessed that the province could not make the desired progress in all spheres and this lack of achievement is due to insurmountable difficulties with the province had to face in the initial stages. But I am sorry to say that they have conveniently forgotten and purposely hidden the conditions in which the Government had to work. They have also conveniently ignored that the newly-formed Government had to cope with problems that were many and tough. There were not a few hurdles to overcome. Instead of saying so they have indulged in a great deal of criticism which in these circumstances, I would call self-criticism. It goes without saying that the Government has tried its best to work for the common weal though against heavy odds. I would frankly say that party strifes were in fact the stumbling block in our progress to which pointed reference has been made in the Address of His Excellency the Governor. He says:

Members of the Assembly, I venture with your permission to end on a personal note. Our State is new, having come into being only two and a half years ago. Though we have achieved stability and made considerable progress, many difficult problems, some of which I have mentioned in my Address, still confront us. We may also have to face dangers, whether arising within or outside our State. It is, therefore, incumbent on all of us to be more vigilant and work harder than before, and also to maintain complete unity and perfect discipline. In this matter a heavy responsibility rests particularly on you my friends, the representatives of the people of our State. Let not pettiness or senseless strife or quarrels mar our activities. Let the highest sense of public duty permeate and guide all our actions, and let us all devote ourselves unitedly and whole-

[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma]

heartedly to the service of our State, specially bearing in mind the fundamental importance of promoting the welfare and happiness of the common citizen. It is for the common citizen that the Father of the nation lived and laboured and it is for this that he led us to freedom.

Now that the Republic of India has come into existence and a new chapter in our country's life has begun, we should forget all differences and devote ourselves to work for the good of the province. It was only three days ago that we took an oath of faithfulness to the new Constitution and said that we would make all possible attempts to work it. I know that the plight of the poor is very miserable in this province but it can certainly be improved if we put into effect the directive principles which have been provided in the Constitution. If we have recourse to chapter IV we can reconstruct our province and the society in such a way that every individual gets an equal opportunity with others. We can bring about such conditions under which every citizen of our State gets suitable work to do and grow to his natural stature. Sir, you belong to District Kangra and are fully aware of the facts prevailing at that place. You know that this district is mainly inhabited by small zamindars and the yield from their lands is very small. No big or even small industries have so far been set up there. No suitable arrangements exist for medical aid and education, transport and public health etc. But I make bold to say that all these troubles which our people are facing at present can be overcome if we bring into operation the directive principles of our new Constitution. As remarked by His Excellency the Governor, we should bid good-bye to our personal differences and work for the collective good of the State. If we do that we will be able to create such conditions and such social order in which every starving man will get his square meals and every naked person sufficient clothes to cover himself. Before I finish my speech I would again say that we should make honest efforts to put into practice the oath we have taken so that in the next session we will be in a position to say that we have accomplished something for our people.

Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*): Sir, some of the hon. Members have taken part in the discussion on the Governor's Address with a view to place before the Government some constructive suggestions, but some hon. Friends have thought fit to criticise only for the sake of criticizing it. One of my hon. Friends who delivered his speech in high flown English did not bring forward any solid argument. No doubt he tried to humour the House by reading a poem composed by somebody other than himself. In my opinion that poem was incomplete and if the hon. Member were in the House I would have helped him in completing it by providing him the concluding lines. That would have served his object. The lines are as follows :

मिल गई मुझे बटाला में है इक लोहे की मिल और कोई दूसरी शै अब मुझे दरकार नहीं
नाम प्रबोध मेरा शिकवा है इक काम मेरा मुझ से उम्मीदे बका रखे यह सरकार नहीं

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Sir, we are grateful to those of our hon. Friends who have pointed out the actual drawbacks of the Government and have offered constructive criticism while speaking on the Governor's Address. Today as well as yesterday great stress was laid by the critics on two or three

points. The strongest of the critics in my opinion was my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh who complained in very forceful words. He said that the Governor of the Punjab had omitted in his Address to make any mention of labourers and farmers who form an overwhelming majority of the population of our State. According to him a definite and clear cut policy should have been laid down in this behalf in the Address. But Sir, through you I wish to invite his attention and the attention of the House to page 6 of the Address where the Governor says as follows regarding the farmer :—

The key to this is our farmer. He is our base and our foundation ; him we must reach, and that too most effectively; to him we must go constantly; him we must teach, him we must guide ; him we must tell what to do and what not to do, how to do and how not to do. Slogans here will not help ; mere words will not be of any avail ; our advice to him must be such as he can adopt on his land with his resources, supplemented by aid from us. My Government is, therefore, always thinking of every possible avenue of reaching him and enlisting his whole-hearted co-operation in this vital and urgent task.

This para that I have just quoted contains the whole policy of the Government regarding the farmer or the ruralite and in my opinion will go a long way in giving him hope and inspiration. His future appears to be secure.

Another point which was put forward was about the labourers. It was said that the Address was conspicuously silent about the facilities which should be given to them by way of increased wages, holidays etc. I admit that it is so. But it is so on purpose. The policy in this connection has not to be evolved by the Government of this State. The State has got to take its cue from the Centre and I can assure the House that my Government will try its utmost to follow the same policy and principles which are adopted by the Central Government.

If certain laws and rules are not enforced, it is not due to the fact that the Government does not wish to improve the lot of the labourers. On the other hand the Government thinks that if these laws are rigidly enforced no new industry would be set up and those which already exist would not be able to make any progress for the next ten years. It was very likely that some of the existing industries might be completely ruined. When the economic and political conditions in the State are such that the industry is placed on a sound and firm footing, it would be possible to enforce these laws. At a stage when industries have still to be set up, it would be ruinous to enforce these enactments. For these reasons, it had always been the effort of the Government that if any dispute arose between the mill-owners and the labourers, it should be settled by mutual compromise and they should be brought closer to each other. In this manner the industrial progress is not hampered and the condition of labourers is also improved. This Government is completely following the policy of the Central Government in respect of labour. For these reasons, I don't think, it was essential that the matter should have been referred to in the Governor's Address.

While expressing his views one of the hon. Members remarked that though almost every other matter had been mentioned in the Address, there was no reference about the condition of Harijans. For his information, I wish to submit, Sir, that ordinarily only those things are referred to in the Governor's Address, about which the Government proposes to take steps in the following period, or which might be of special importance. Repetition of what the Government had already been doing would not be of any use. It is not correct to think that because no mention has been made in the Governor's Address, the Government did not wish to do anything for the Harijans or was unconcerned about them.

[Minister for Local Self Government and Labour]

One of my hon. Friends said that the Harijans regarded themselves as slaves in this State. I beg to differ on this point. There was a time when the condition of Harijans in the Punjab was such that one was ashamed of mentioning it. I wish to point out, Sir, that on account of the laws enacted by this Government, or by the Central Government, untouchability cannot exist in its old form. There is no doubt that due to misunderstanding on the part of some persons, Harijans were still suffering some disabilities in the villages. Due to the orthodox views of some zamindars of the old school of thought, untouchability still existed in certain forms but this was also fast disappearing. Its existence was mainly due to the fact that by propagating certain views, some persons were trying to keep the Harijans and zamindars away from each other. They were interested in spreading views as may keep their relations estranged. Where these things do not exist, the conditions are quite different. Take the case of Ambala Division. There the Harijans as well as zamindars are anxious to come nearer to each other. Disputes arise in those cases only, where some persons with political motives try to create rift between them. I wish particularly to tell those who think that the Government has not paid proper attention to this matter that the present state of affairs is due to the efforts of those who desire to create and maintain cleavage between the Harijans and the zamindars. It is the duty of those residing in villages to do their best to bring these people nearer each other. If this is done there would be no necessity of laws.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair)

Then, Sir, it had been said that after passing the Removal of Disabilities Act, the Government was not taking action under its provisions. It had also been complained that the Harijans were not treated well and were regarded as a lower class of people. If such instances were brought to the notice of the Government, cases could be instituted against the persons concerned. There had been two or three cases where punishment had to be awarded. In the remaining cases compromises were effected, so that the parties might be brought nearer each other. For certain reasons some cases could not succeed. I believe that restrictions of this kind, which had their roots in the past, could not be removed by taking resort to courts of law. We have made an experiment of settling disputes through Panchayats also. If it is desired to remove untouchability, our aim should not be to obtain the maximum punishments but on the contrary those living in the villages should try to bring the Harijans and zamindars closer to each other. They should be enabled to live like fellow brethren.

Then, Sir, it has been complained that the levy of professional tax meant great hardship. This curse is the outcome of the mentality of people with old ideas. When such persons go out to make assessment, they take revenge from those who refuse to do forced labour for them and have begun to regard themselves as their equals. It is regrettable that in the matter of imposing Professional Tax, Harijans are not treated fairly and justly. The Government is considering ways and means of removing this hardship. We have enquired from the members of District Boards, as to how these people can be saved from the hardships caused by levy of Professional Tax.

Sometime back the Government considered a proposal for the abolition of these professional taxes. But there is another side of the picture. We should not take any step which might reduce the income of the District Boards to such an extent that they should become unable to continue whatever bene-

ficent work they are at present doing. Whereas we have to save our Harijan brethren from the excessive burden of taxes we have also to see that the income of the District Boards is not very adversely affected. I would, therefore, like to submit that the Government would find out some way, in conformity with the requirements of the situation, to relieve the people who are unable to pay heavy taxes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When would that be done ?

Minister For Local Self Government and Labour : In the near future.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir I want to know whether there is no time limit for the hon. Ministers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I will ask the hon. Minister to wind up.

Minister For Local Self Government and Labour : It was pointed out yesterday by Sardar Swaran Singh that the electricity produced in our State is being passed on to Pakistan when we have ourselves pressing need of it. I am sorry to say that the hon. Member who has raised this objection, has been Minister incharge of electricity for pretty long and as such should have known why we are giving electricity to Pakistan. I would, however, clarify the position.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think the hon. Minister would now wind up. Only one Minister who is to reply to the whole discussion will get one hour.

Minister For Local Self Government and Labour : Sir, if you think that I have taken more time, I will leave this matter to the hon. Chief Minister and I resume my seat.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore; General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) Sir, we are discussing the Resolution of thanks to his Excellency for delivering this Address. His Excellency has admitted that corruption is still prevalent. People outside this House, who come in contact with Government officials know that corruption is not only prevalent but is rampant every where. People have been enquiring from me the causes of this wide-spread corruption in services. I, sometimes, thought of some corrupt officers and sometimes of a certain Minister to be the cause of this corruption. But it is only now that I have known the real cause. It is this that the Government has controlled corruption just like other commodities such as iron, sugar etc. Now it is our experience that the prices of commodities which are controlled go up. That is why cases against responsible officers are not registered. The Government, I think, issues permits for the registration of cases against corrupt officers.

Secondly, no promise has been held out in the Address for the separation of judiciary from the executive. In other provinces the Governments have taken very strong measures for this purpose. We see that the judiciary in our State is not allowed to function independently. Corruption and favouritism cannot be abolished unless judiciary is freed from the influence of the executive. In U. P. this is being done and Madras as well as Bombay is also doing much in this direction. If our Government is earnest about putting an end to corruption and favouritism it should take early steps to separate judiciary from the executive.

Thirdly, I want to say a few words regarding prohibition. Madras Government has introduced complete prohibition even though their income from this source was about six crores of rupees. Governments of Bombay and U. P. have also taken steps for this purpose. But the Congress Government

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

in our State has introduced prohibition only in one district, namely, Rohtak District. It assured us, however, that every year one more District would be brought under prohibition. But I am sorry to say that there is no mention of this promise in the Address. The income of our Government from land revenue is about rupees one crore and 32 lakhs while the income from liquor is about rupees three crores. This income cannot be called fair or moral. Sir, in all earnestness I wish to submit that the steps taken by the Government are quite inadequate. The Government lives on the revenues from drinks and it does not wish to enforce prohibition at all and a Government which depends on immoral income from drinks like a "Kalal" has no right to exist.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : But your party is against the prohibition policy of the Congress !

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I know better. Only the other day Members including Ministers took the oath under the new Constitution. They have sworn to abide by the spirit and the letter of the Articles contained therein.

Article 19 lays down that "all the citizens shall have the right of freedom of speech and expression." But can our Government say that it tries to put this into practice ? Do they follow the spirit contained in the Article; or is it merely a pious wish to be confined to a piece of paper only? It is a sacred Constitution of the country and not a constitution of a political party which on paper demands its office bearers to put on Khadi, abstain from taking drinks, hate communalism and work for the interest of peasants and labourers but in actual practice they may act to the contrary and still remain their prominent leaders. This cannot be tolerated in the case of violation of the provisions of the Constitution of India. Can we entertain a hope that those responsible for bringing into being the present Constitution will also see that it is followed in principle and essence? As a matter of fact no freedom of speech or expression is tolerated in our State. All criticism of the Government is dubbed as objectionable and against law. In such a state of affairs the liberty promised by the Articles of the constitution is denied in actual practice.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Does your party support the present Constitution ?

Mr. Speaker : No interruptions please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the House is aware of the circumstances leading to the arrest of Mr. Jawahar Lal Kapur, Advocate of Ambala. My Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh laid them before the honourable Members the other day. The decision of the Government to build the capital at Chandigarh was the subject of criticism. I don't think any law was broken or any form of violence was resorted to. There was no such intention from any quarter. It was simply a question of free expression of opinions. Those who sincerely feel that the decision of the Government to build its capital near Chandigarh is not in the interest of the people of the State, have every right to resort to constitutional methods to get this decision changed. If our Government cannot see its way to tolerate even such criticism, then it actually amounts to a denial of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the very Constitution to which Ministers have taken an oath. Sir, in this connection I wish to relate my personal experience also. A letter which I wrote for publication was stopped by the Police in Ludhiana. For the information of the House I would like to state that the contents of the letter were in no way an instigation to violence nor were they of an illegal character. It contained a political subject pure and simple and I don't think our Government was within its rights to stop its publication. Had

it been otherwise, the Government could have arrested me or taken action on the subject matter. But it was an innocent letter and I wish to read it out before the House so that honourable Members may know for themselves what it contained. (*Interruption*). Well, Sir, I was submitting that if the letter I had written transgressed the limits of Law, I should have been hauled up for that. The position is that the printing press accepted it for printing purposes but undue pressure was brought to bear upon the owner of the press by the police not to print it. That is what I deprecate and that is why I want to bring it to the notice of the House. Later on I got that letter printed in a press at Delhi.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I am not going to allow him to read the letter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When I am prepared to take the fullest responsibility for the contents of the letter and face the consequences arising out of it, why should obstacles be put by the police in the printing of this letter?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have asked the hon. Member not to refer to it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Very well, Sir, one thing more and I have finished. Sometime ago a newspaper of Jullundur, namely, the Prabhat wanted to publish a letter by Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru which contained some words and hon. Chief Minister knows what he himself had said, on the floor of the House that in steel scandal cases the police used third degree methods. Is it a fact or not that the Chief Minister used these words? But what happened, Sir? Undue influence from the police was used to stop the publication of that letter because it adversely affected the reputation of a certain individual. May I ask whether it is lawful to use such tactics and strangle the freedom of expression of views? The contents of that letter are fully known to the hon. Chief Minister as he received that letter and he knows well that there was nothing obnoxious in it. I am constrained to remark that the actions of our Government belie their professions.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. Can he inflict this letter on the House ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I do not know what the contents of the letter are. The hon. Member is discussing the point that there is no freedom of speech and expression. This point is mentioned in part (a) of his amendment.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, I want your ruling on the point whether an hon. Member can read a document which is not a Government document and which does not concern the debate going on in the House ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is supporting his point that there is no freedom of speech and expression in the State. I have not seen the letter and would like to have a copy of it ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, this is a printed letter and I can give you a copy.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is a long letter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, this may be taken as read.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I find that this letter contains references to many hon. Members and Ministers, not only to Ministers of the State but there is something about the High Command also. And there is reference not only to the High Command but to persons in high authority. I also find that

[Mr. Speaker]

something has been said about the views of Mahatma Gandhi. In these circumstances, I feel that the hon. Member should not press for the reading of this letter on the floor of the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I take full responsibility for whatever is written in this letter. In my view there is nothing in this letter which is against the law and if, Government thinks the letter contains something which is against the law of the land they should arrest me and proceed against me. As a citizen of the Republic of India, of which this State of Punjab is a part, I wrote this letter which was not allowed to be published. The Constitution provides the right of freedom of speech and expression but this Government does not allow that in the State of the Punjab. Under this fundamental right of the Constitution of the Republic of India, I wrote this letter and I maintain I had every right to get it published in the press but the Government used unconstitutional methods and did not allow the letter to be published. This is the point that I want to discuss. By reading the letter to the House I want to show that there is nothing in it which offends any law.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I know the hon. Member wants to point out that a letter has not been allowed to be published by the Government. In the letter I find that there are reflections against persons in high authority. This is not allowed by our Rules of Procedure and I would refer the hon. Member to Rule 78.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, if you carefully read the letter you will find that I have said nothing against any one and if there is anything I take full responsibility for it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** You can discuss the conduct of a person in high authority only on a substantive motion. I find in this letter that there are many objectionable statements and I do not allow the hon. Member to read it on the floor of the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I want to know whether a Minister or a person in high authority can be criticised in any capacity ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** You can bring in a substantive motion to discuss the conduct of a Minister or a person in high authority.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then, Sir, does it mean that no work of a Minister can be discussed without a substantive motion ?

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. The ruling given by you should not be discussed by any hon. Member.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Nobody is discussing the ruling of the hon. Speaker :

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I am told that in my absence one of the hon. Ministers Shri Prithvi Singh Azad referred to me and said something about an iron or steel mill that I have got. He further said that was the aim of my life which has been achieved. Sir, in this connection I have not to say much and do not want to stoop so low as the hon. Minister has done, but I wonder how a person who himself is living in a glass house can dare fling stones on others.

Mr. Speaker : Do you deny what the hon. Minister has said ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Yes, I challenge him.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, when we came over to this side of the border after partition of the country, we found that the economy of the East Punjab was weak and shattered and that agriculturally or industrially it was not so well developed as the West Punjab. As a matter of fact, the wealth of the West Punjab far exceeded that of the East Punjab. That is why perhaps the problem of rehabilitation of refugees has been a cause of serious headache to our Government. I, however, pondered over the situation to find out the secret of the success of the Englishman in governing this country from a distance of 7000 miles. The British Government could not afford to keep a large army to keep India under its thumb. Then how it managed to rule over this sub-continent for so long a time? It was the policy of 'divide and rule' which was responsible for his success. The Britisher introduced the virus of division of communities in every branch of administration as well as sphere of life. When he found that schism created by him on the basis of communalism had reached its saturating point, he tried to create class distinctions and gave it a statutory shape by enactments. He passed discriminatory laws with a view to divide the people on economic basis also. Then the sacrifices of the Congress came to fruition and the foreign rule ended in August, 1947. Afterwards the Constituent Assembly prepared a Constitution which was only recently adopted and enforced in the country. We took our oath of allegiance under it the other day.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. Two of the hon. Members on the front benches are reading the letter which you have not allowed to be read on the floor of the House. I want your ruling on the point whether this is in order?

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : Then, Sir, the result of that discriminatory legislation was that the development of the Punjab was lop-sided. While the West Punjab received every help from the Government for its development, the interests of the East Punjab were sacrificed due to the machinations of the vested interests. I would request my brethren that since the Constitution no longer recognises such vested interests and promises to administer even-handed justice to all the citizens they should see that such elements as were responsible for the weak economy of the East Punjab are not allowed to have another lease of life.

I would draw the attention of the House to a few Articles of the Constitution of India. Article 15 (a) on fundamental rights of citizens, lays down :—

The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

In the Chapter of Rights to Freedom Article 19 (f) it is laid down *inter alia* :—

All citizens shall have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property.

The provisions cited by me speak volumes and I wish to impress upon the hon. Members to see that all those evils which had cropped up as a result of discriminatory laws should be eradicated as soon as possible. I need not say that on the basis of those discriminatory laws a certain class of people had acquired huge properties which had to be abandoned due to partition. I hope the hon. Members would see to the reasonableness of the provisions made in the Constitution of India and extend their wholehearted support and respect, so that distinction between man and man, class and class, that has wrongly

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

subsisted in the past is totally removed and social equality prevails amongst all the citizens.

5 P. M.] There are certain Acts in which some amendments have to be made under the present changed conditions. There are still other Acts which need to be repealed. Let us take the Land Alienation Act. At this stage I do not want to enter into any details so far as the Act is concerned. In fact I had given notice of an amendment but I do not intend to move it now.

✓ **Mr Speaker:** The hon. Member will have an opportunity to discuss that point to-morrow.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : I would like to request my hon. Friends to ask the Government to examine the Land Alienation Act and thus repeal it. In fact it is not my intention that Government should take such a step without any rhyme or reason. Let us retain those Acts without which we cannot do and which are quite in keeping with the changed conditions. On the other hand, there are certain old Laws which have become obsolete and which have also been instrumental in creating invidious distinctions between man and man. In fact the provisions of such Acts have become so obsolete that those are no longer required to be placed on the Statute Book. At the same time we should not hesitate to place such Bills on the Statute Book which are really instrumental in improving the conditions of the general public. So far as the Land Alienation Act is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that in spite of the differences of some people on this issue we should go ahead to repeal it or effect necessary changes in it for the benefit of every class.

Further, I wish to point out whenever discussion is raised on any point on the floor of the House my refugee friends discuss it from a different point of view and upto a certain limit they are quite justified in demanding more and more for the rehabilitation of our refugee brethren. In fact maximum help should be given to them as they are hard hit. But in my opinion instead of rehabilitating only the refugees it would have been in the fitness of things if the whole State were rehabilitated. It is not the refugees alone but the entire population of the State which have suffered due to partition. The economy of the whole State has been displaced and shattered. It is, therefore in the fitness of things that adequate steps should be taken to properly rehabilitate the whole State. It is not possible and also reasonable to re-establish the shattered economy of the State by rehabilitating the refugees only. If we think broadly we will find that the object of rehabilitating our refugee brethren will be achieved by rehabilitating the entire population. If the conditions of the State as a whole are improved, I am sure, both urbanites and ruralites who constitute the State would be benefitted equally to a great extent. Let us make all our efforts to put an end to these invidious distinctions between urban or rural classes. Let us chalk out a programme for the rehabilitation of the State, as a whole. Let us divert our full attention towards all the spheres of trade, commerce and agriculture.

His Excellency the Governor has in the course of his Address which he delivered yesterday paid tribute to the Government for its achievements and services rendered to the people of the State. In my opinion it is futile to think of the past achievements. We will not be able to derive benefit from these unless we forget our differences, remove the gulf or barriers that exist between

us and rise above petty squabbles in view of the needs of the changed times and the pressing needs of our State. It will not be out of place to mention here that the British had created dissensions amongst us with a view to grinding their own axe. Times have changed now and we must know as to where we stand. If we do not forget the past, I am sure, conditions will become still worse and if at present only some of us are refugees from Pakistan, time will not be far off when all of us would be worse than refugees. There are very few such unfortunate persons who fail to understand the gravity of the situation. They do not realise that the betterment of ruralites is dependent upon the urbanites and *vice-versa*. In my opinion petty and narrowminded people are the worst type of criminals of the society. It is they who create obstacles in the path of our progress. It is they who appeal to the sentiments of people and thus instigate them to create confusion.

There is no gainsaying the fact that agriculture is the main source of production. The prosperity of rural areas is dependent upon the prosperity of urban areas and *vice-versa* and one can in no way flourish at the expense of the other. Under the circumstances, equal facilities should be given to poor people living in both towns and villages. After all poor are to be found both in the rural areas as also in the urban areas. Similarly rich people are to be found both in the towns and the villages. In the same way in industrial concerns we have capitalists as well as labourers. Both of them live in the towns with the difference that the one is rich and the other poor. Similarly in the rural areas, we find big landlords and the small tenants. We must forget these distinctions. Let us join hands and chalk out a programme for the greatest good of the greatest number and place it before the Government for its active consideration.

Further I wish to submit that under the Constitution we shall be having adult franchise. A person will be within his rights to vote not because he has any property or educational qualifications but simply because he has attained the age of 21 years. So far as the policy and the programme of the Congress is concerned, it is crystal clear that Congress has come into the field and has left the people to judge for themselves about its work. We should always keep in our mind all the Articles of the Constitution. We should at the same time keep in our mind the aims and objects for which the Congress stands. We should not lag behind in following its principles in the true sense of the word.

There is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House. It is our bounden duty to provide educational facilities to people, open hospitals, roads and schools. These are the needs of the hour. We must make all out efforts to kill germs of disease and illiteracy. There should be one hospital in every house.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. Should there be a hospital in every house ?

Shri Behari Lal Chanana. Perhaps the hon. Member does not know that there are travelling dispensaries too, I meant these dispensaries.

One point more and I have done. The burden of taxation should be shared by one and all equally. If one section protests against the imposition of any tax, the result would be that Government would not be in a position to fulfil the needs of the people on account of lack of funds. Taxes should be shared equally by all. With these words, Sir, I fully support the motion of thanks moved by my hon. Friend Chandhri Krishna Gopal Dutt for the Address delivered by the Governor yesterday.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha. (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, Article 15 of the Constitution of India lays down that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race caste

(Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha)

etc. In his Address, His Excellency the Governor has not stated if the Government intends doing anything to remove the existing discriminations. Those hon. Members who have said that the distinction between urbanities and ruralities was the creation of the British for their own ends are quite right. Now that we are a free people, we should shed slavish mentality which formerly made us keep up and emphasise class distinctions as between urban people and rural people, agriculturists and non-agriculturists, Hindus and Sikhs. It is a pity that we still think along these mental grooves. Let us shake off such pettiness and narrow-mindedness and act upon this new resolve that we made by adopting the Constitution. We should realise this new responsibility and stop talking in terms of divisions. Let us give a burial to the divisions created by the British with a view to ruling over us. At present, the urban people are so much handicapped, that if our Chief Minister's children were to decide to settle in a rural area, they would not be able to get a few marlas of land. Not even the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister of India or H. E. the Governor who gave us an Address day before yesterday can purchase even a kanal of land in any of the villages of the Punjab. That is not all. People domiciled in one district, cannot purchase land in any other district. People of Rohtak cannot purchase land in Karnal. Isn't it a galling, absurd restriction? I must say so, even at the risk of being laughed at by my zamindar friends.

Already there were so many castes into which our people were divided. The Britishers wanted to create another division and they did it by enacting the Punjab Alienation of Land Act. It was owing to the operation of this Act, that land could not be had by Mira Ben for building an 'Ashram' at Palampur as desired by Gandhiji. This place was selected after a good deal of deliberation and after seeing many other places, namely, Rishi Kesh, Almora, Nanital and Mussoorie but due to nonavailability of land the 'Ashram' had to be set up at Rishi Kesh. If that 'Ashram' had been established at Palampur, it would today be a place of pilgrimage for the whole of India and the people of Kangra who complain of lack of attention from the Government would have been much better off. Why should the people who want to take to agriculture and live in villages be debarred from purchasing land, simply because as a result of an arbitrary classification they happen to be non-agriculturists.

In his Address, His Excellency was pleased to remark that corruption was on the decrease. Many hon. Members of this House know very well that in fact both corruption and crime are on the increase every where in this State. Indiscipline is prevalent among the services. The Sub-Inspector does not care for the Inspector and the Tehsildar pays no heed to the orders of the Revenue Officer. About the corruption in the Rehabilitation Department, the less said the better. The officials of this Department would not issue an allotment chit without taking a bribe. Whether the Government takes action against them or not, it is a fact that they have given the Government a bad name.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindustani*) : Sir a short while ago the hon. Minister for Labour remarked in the course of his speech that most of the hon. Members have spoken just with the object of having a fling at the Government. I want to assure him at the very outset that I am not actuated by any such motive. I am a true follower of the Congress and have the greatest respect for the hon. Ministers and other leaders of the party.

I cannot, however, conceal my real feelings. To say the least, I was pained to hear the Governor's Address. I had hoped that now that India is a free country and has become a sovereign democratic republic, His Excellency's first Address to this House would give such a message of hope to the distressed

and dejected people of this bleeding State, that they would begin to feel the glow of a new enthusiasm and try to forget their despondency and despair. But it appears as though the person who drafted the Address had lost all fire and enthusiasm in his heart. How could then he entice others with a message of hope or even a message of action?

With a view to appraising the real condition of this State two and a half years after attainment of independence, we have to ask ourselves this question. Is our fund of goodwill at a higher or a lower mark since the year 1946-47? Do we inspire more confidence among the people and enjoy their support in a greater measure than in 1946 or not? I don't impute any ulterior motives to my friends of the Congress party who have already spoken on the motion or even those who have brought amendments thereon. I know they didn't criticise the Government just for the sake of criticism.

Sir, I would submit that the Governor's Address should have infused a cheerful spirit in everybody and particularly filled the hearts of refugees with joy. It should have indicated that with the gradual lifting of darkness the sun of prosperity will rise and shine over the brave people who reside in the Punjab. This message of hope would have assuaged the lacerated hearts of the displaced persons and removed the sense of frustration that has seized them. It has been said that the law and order position in our State is satisfactory and that the crime has substantially decreased. But may I ask if peace and tranquillity is to be brought about in the State by promulgating Public Safety Act or such other stringent measures? If it is so, the peace and tranquillity lose all their charm and attraction. I, however, do not mean that the persons who believe in the cult of violence should not be dealt with according to Law, as these are the people that represent anti-national and anti-social forces. Is it not an anti-national act if one is going to suppress all human liberty? You can not keep five hundred young-men indefinitely behind the bars without trial. If with the use of such autocratic measures you succeed in creating a situation that you call by the name of peace, I say it is a peace of the grave. It is a lull before the huge storm which is coming. The crux of the problem is that for how long we shall be able to maintain peace by such measures. I would say that unless you have the confidence of the common-man, we will not be able to build for our-selves and our fellowmen a lasting peace in this land. We need a real peace, not the peace of the dead but the peace with life and freedom, that this Address has failed to assure us. Our greatest problem today is neither political nor economic; but it is moral. Our people's minds are full of gloom and frustration and their morale is at the lowest ebb. How to raise their morale? A suitable atmosphere of hope and confidence, which will enable the people to act and think rightly is the need of the day. Secondly, the Government should try to remove discontent, despondency and down-heartedness among the masses and work for the economic betterment of the people. We find that there is dissatisfaction, discontent and absolute lack of confidence amongst the public, so our Government should act with more vigour and address itself to this task seriously. It is also significant to say that by removing this feeling of dismay and frustration from amongst the masses we shall be able to check the approaching menace of communism in India. The violent methods designed to suppress communism, I think, would not prove effective. I may warn the Government that we cannot afford to shut our eyes to what is happening elsewhere in the world. There are great leaders of communities and men, who are successfully leading the huge masses of peoples. In case we are going to reject their lead, we have to show some tangible achievements. We have to raise ourselves to those heights to which those leaders of men had risen. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh has remarked in the course of his speech that this State had to start from a scratch and there was no essential equipment for our officers

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar]

to work. Let us not unnecessarily over-estimate our achievements. If you go back to the history of Russia you will find innumerable instances that men at the helm of affairs worked ceaselessly day and night to build up their nation. They did not care for the stately mansions and not even for their salaries. They did not fight shy to do the meanest work, if need be, and worked with zeal and enthusiasm. Pestkoosky has described how M. Stalin started his 'Commissariat of Nationalities'. He started this department with 3,000 rubles, borrowed money, brought two half broken chairs and a shaky table from a corner of the Defence Ministry. On a card board, torn from an old register, he wrote Soviet "Comissariat of Nationalities", and hung it over the wall, and started work in a small partitioned portion of a small room. Here he sat till late in midnight with a lone secretary. With this drive and vigour, we see that they have changed the whole face of the Soviet Union. In India we will have to choose between Gandhism and Communism. But at present Gandhism is not being given a fair chance. Communism is being suppressed, result is that we are having bureaucratic capitalism of worse type. We say we will not let Communism take its roots in this land. But we are to contend with leaders like Mao of China, who washes his own clothes, and cleans his own utensils. He gets a salary Rs. 10/- per month. We have to contend with men like General Chu, who was once a millionaire, gave all his property to the party, took no salary, but begged his food daily. At the age of 60 he carries his own kit on his shoulders. Gandhi could easily match them and even defeat them, but shall we do so, while thinking in terms of our high salaries? Let us set high standards of conduct, noble examples for the rising new generation to emulate. Nations are built by men with strong character. Take care of this moral side of your nation, life and other things will automatically follow. Unfortunately for us, this essential side is being completely ignored and remains absolutely untouched in the Governor's Address.

Indefinite and continued detention of people, will serve no useful purpose in the long run. We ought to have grown wiser by our own experience during the British regime. So let us take a longrange view, and concentrate our attention on expert remedies, that should treat the causes rather than symptoms of the disease. Moreover, I fail to find any mention in the Address about the two serious difficulties that are exercising and worrying the minds of our working population. Ejectment of tenants from their lands and ejectment of workers from their factories in the name of unavoidable retrenchment and nationalisation of industry are likely to put our whole social and economic life in jeopardy. This will produce a huge army of the un-employed in a province, where thousands of refugees are already without any work. Large scale un-employment will mean a serious danger to our law and order position as well. Do not feel complacent. You are sitting on the top of a volcano which may burst out any moment. Stop these agricultural and industrial ejectments immediately. I do not know why His Excellency has tried to shut his eyes towards this serious problem that is facing the present Government, and he has given no assurances to the agitated and anxious minds. So I have not been able to understand what is the policy of the Government in this behalf.

The alien rule has left us for ever, let the alien outlook and mentality also be bidden goodbye too. Let us think in terms of the Indian masses, in the terms of the poor man in the field or factory or in the street, for whose sake Gandhi won the freedom. I feel extremely pained and disappointed that this Address of His Excellency, first after the establishment of Indian Republic, lacks that glow of life, that fervour and enthusiasm to serve and to arouse others to serve the downtrodden humanity of this vast land, it brings no message of hope and confidence. and will leave the poor man absolutely

cold, whose heart, it ought to have been our first object, to warm up and kindle.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat (Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rub my eyes in amazement to find from His Excellency the Governor's Address that the Government has evinced no interest for the rural population of the State. My hon. Friend Chuadhri Lahri Singh has rightly remarked that the conditions in villages are far from satisfactory. People remain half starved there as neither wheat nor gram are available. In tehsil Sirsa of Hissar district there is great scarcity of drinking water and the people of that ilaqa have to traverse a distance of three miles to bring water for themselves. The Government has not taken any steps to provide this essential amenity to these people. Moreover, it is strange to find that the Government have issued orders to kill monkeys and deer in connection with the Grow More Food campaign. It is a thing quite unheard of. I think that killing of these animals is a great sin. I would call this "Grow More Food" campaign as "destroy more food campaign" because the people who have been employed for this task have not the least knowledge how food is grown.

The work which is being done by the officers employed for Grow More Food campaign is absolutely hopeless. They do not know what is what. They only know how to sit in offices and issue orders, and for want of experience of work on farms they have been doing more harm than good. What happened at Hissar? By allowing more water than was necessary they spoiled the crop. It is only the farmer who is in a position to render useful advice in this connection. But the pity is that he is being altogether ignored. He sacrifices his children in the event of war and he grows food for the State but no body cares for him. The advice of Mahatma Gandhi that some thing should be done for the uplift of the ruralites has fallen on deaf ears and the rural people are very much dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. They vainly expect the present rulers to follow the precedents of kings like Raja Bhoj and do justice like him. They are not being properly treated. The imposition of controls is not at all liked by them as it unnecessarily throws them at the mercy of the lambardars, patwaris and Civil Supplies Inspectors. I would request the Government to remove the system of controls.

In the end I request the Government that they should have a sympathetic attitude towards the rural people so that they are not forced to adopt any violent means.

Chaudhri Matu Ram (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, Genral, Rural, Reserved seat): (*Hindustani*). Sir, a number of charges have been levelled against the Government but my complaint is that "recommendation" is still the order of the day. I stood up about ten times during the last two hours but no one would permit me to speak in the House and it was only when I had recourse to recommendation that I succeeded. Sir, my hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh has said a good deal about the Harijans but he forgot to mention a few things and I wish to place the same before the House. The Governor has in his Address altogether ignored the important and most difficult problems which the Harijans are faced with. Lakhs of Harijans have come from West Pakistan to this State as refugees but Government has not thought it fit to provide them with houses. In the beginning they somehow arranged to share the shelter

[Chaudhri Matu Ram]

with Harijans who originally belonged to this State but such an arrangement cannot last for all time. Not only that they have no homes, they have no work to do and nobody bothers about them. The refugees other than the Harijan refugees have obtained houses, lands, employment and every thing. It is only the Harijan who has neither a house in the city nor a farm in the village. We have several times requested the Chief Minister as also the Labour Minister that something should be done for these helpless and homeless people. When His Excellency the Governor went on tour he was also apprised of facts, but knowing everything full well he has failed to do them justice in his Address. Now what is the message that we are to carry to our constituents. So far we have been telling them that the Government was doing a lot for them but now they will be disillusioned altogether. They will not have much faith either in the Governor or his Government.

My hon. Friend the Labour Minister has made a beautiful speech. He makes such speeches in every Session. He says that untouchability has been done away with. I ask him what advantage has accrued to us by removal of untouchability. I for one do not mind it if it is there so long as we can get something to eat. Let people treat us as untouchables but for God's sake let us have water to drink and bread to eat.

We are in a very miserable condition and it is not possible to describe it. It is said that exemption from fees will be given to the Harijan children in schools. But who will enjoy this exemption? People should have homes before they can send their children to school. There was a time when the Harijan cultivator was well treated by the landlord and was given a share in the produce. But times have changed; he is no longer trusted. The landlord and tenant disputes are multiplying everyday and tenants are being turned out from the lands.

Sant Narindar Singh : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Montgomery E. St, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I also wish to speak a few words on the Resolution of thanks now before the House. In his Address, His Excellency the Governor made statement of Government policy regarding different matters. In the course of his Address, he remarked that the Punjab had always been the sword-arm of India. I pray to God that it should continue to enjoy that distinction. After partition of the country and the loss of North West Frontier Province our State is situated on the border. At first the Government was pleased to state that people living within ten miles of the territory alongside the border would be armed with guns and rifles but this has been done only in the case of those who are within two miles from the border.

When the hon. Chief Minister visited Abohar on the 14th January, I requested him to take the trouble of paying another visit to Fazilka. He was kind enough to visit that place on the ninth February, when it was so cold that our crops were damaged by it. We met the hon. Chief Minister there and explained to him the difficulties of landless tenants. I am thankful to him for the patient hearing he gave us. I wish to point out, Sir, that though at first even some landless tenants were given some land, after the quasi-permanent allotment, they would be dispossessed of it and would become jobless. More-over the zamindars would take to cultivation with the help of tractors and land-less tenants would not be able to get any work.

Then, Sir, many a time, Muslims from across the border cross into our territory and take away our cattle. If we try to get these back by chasing the cattle-lifters, the border-police posted by our Government prevents us from doing so. Let our Government be as fair and just as it likes, but we should not be prevented from retaliating when we are troubled by the people of neighbouring country. It will be noticed, Sir, that about ten thousand allotment chits are lying unavailed in Fazilka because people do not wish to get land near the border. I shall request the Government to make better arrangements for the safety of people living in the border towns and villages. The Government should also arrange for the rehabilitation of land less tenants. Unless this class of people is satisfied, 'Grow More Food Campaign' started by the Government cannot succeed.

I do not wish to speak much, because I know that the hon Chief Minister is aware of our difficulties and I take this opportunity of thanking the Parliamentary Secretary for accepting two or three suggestions made by me.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir, I have carefully listened to the speeches made in this House to-day and have also gone through the reports of those delivered yesterday. Under the new Constitution it has been made obligatory that His Excellency the Governor should address the House at the commencement of each session and inform the hon. Members about the business which they have to transact in that session. It is a new thing for us but in other Parliaments and States, the President or the King informs the Legislature through his address the object of its having been summoned. Only important matters are referred to in these addresses but no mention is made of those subjects which should be and are discussed in the Budget.

In the first part of his Address to this House, His Excellency the Governor mentioned about the work done by the Government in respect of important matters, while in its second part he informed the hon. Members that they had been summoned for discussing the Budget. He also referred to some of the important legislative measures which the House would be called upon to enact.

In reality, the proper time for the expression of views which the hon. Members have placed before the House would have been during the discussion of Budget. Undoubtedly opinion should have been expressed about the subjects referred to in the Address and it has been done to a considerable extent. Before speaking about the matters, discussed by other hon. Members I wish to refer to the remarks of one of my hon. Friends, who said that the occupants of Treasury Benches possessed neither brain nor intelligence nor imagination. I may say, for his information that we were duly elected by the public and have been entrusted with the task of administration of this State as members of a particular party. He said some other things also but I have not received so high education as he has, and was, therefore, not able to understand him fully. It is perhaps due to his education that he did not deliver his speech in his own language. I wish to add for the information of my hon. Friend that when people exercised their votes in favour of certain people or certain organisation, they did so in the belief that they were capable of serving them. After their election to this House, some Members were entrusted with the task of administration and it was believed that they possessed brains as well as imagination and intelligence.

[Chief Minister]

I am, however, unable to understand as to what led my hon. Friend to think that none except he possessed these qualities. He is at liberty to think as he pleases. Unfortunately there is a great need of discipline in the country. In his Address to this House, His Excellency also stressed the importance of discipline among the services. If we wish to make any progress in the prevailing conditions, we must observe strict discipline. How can we expect discipline from the public, so long as we, who claim to be their representatives, don't observe it? If we ourselves lack discipline, how can we expect it from the services? When we ourselves cannot show any discipline how can we expect any from the services. So far as services are concerned His Excellency, the Governor pointed out that yet more discipline is required. I would request my hon. Friends that if we have to serve the people, we will also have to inculcate the habit of discipline. If it is already there, I congratulate them for it and if it is not there I would request them to try to acquire it.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I want to say, Sir, that the Chief Minister should himself first practise what he preaches.

Chief Minister : Yes, this is also an example of discipline and I am thankful to the hon. Member for it. But I am constrained so say that there are hon. Members who give out in the press that they have left the party while at the same time they continue to be in it. If we want to remain in the party we should abide by its discipline.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether it is a party meeting or a meeting of the House?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member knows better.

Chief Minister : His Excellency pointed out in his Address that the position of law and order is now better. It has been said that there is no freedom of speech or expression in our province. It has also been remarked that the first Communist Government in Russia started from a scratch and its members carried weights on their own shoulders. But I may submit that after the 15th August 1947, the Punjab Government had no offices whatsoever on account of partition of the Province. Even to-day the offices at our disposal are not equal to the status of a Government. Stalin, I know, is a great man; he has built his country. His name is invoked in favour of freedom of speech of a type which can be very well understood from one incident. Somebody writes a letter to somebody else and later on it is desired to get it printed. Now it is said that police did not allow the letter to be printed. The press people are not members and cannot take courage to do things which may bring harm so them. The police merely told them that if they printed the letter, they should be prepared for the consequences. The Police thus wanted them to know the consequences. Under these conditions, if they did not print the letter, the Government is not to blame for that. As a matter of fact it is the duty of the Government to tell people not to do anything under coercion of some people. It is also possible that the pressmen might have considered the letter to be a bogus one. In that case they would have been in trouble if the case had later on gone to the court.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Such a thing did not happen even during the British regime.

Chief Minister : If my hon. Friend likes British rule more than the present one, he can go where it is. I may assure him that the British rule cannot be brought back over here. (Cheers) So long as we have strength

we would not allow any system of Government foreign to our own ideas to be brought about over here. It is such instances on the basis of which it is said that there exists no freedom of speech or expression in our State. This letter was printed in a press at Delhi and action could be taken if there had been anything objectionable in the letter.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think the hon. Chief Minister should not press this point too much.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am only replying to the point because it was referred to. I will however give it up in deference to your wishes.

It has been said that a large number of people are kept in detention and thus the freedom of speech and expression is absent. But I submit that it is the duty of every Government worth its name to put down people who preach and practise violence. Any Government which cannot do this does not deserve to exist. I, therefore, want to make it quite clear on this occasion that the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed in the Constitution under Fundamental Rights is subject to the condition that it is not abused to destroy peace and order in the State. I know that the people who are now in detention preached violence and did not hesitate to practise it. I have no hesitation in saying that Government will not spare even those who sympathise with such persons and action will also be taken against them. (*Cheers*)

The time at my disposal is very short. I will, therefore, reply to this point at the time of discussion of the Budget.

The next point to which our attention has been drawn is the question of refugee rehabilitation. It will be taken up in detail in the discussion on the budget estimates. The first question to which I am going to refer is the question of compensation. In this matter Government of India issued the Evacuee Property Ordinance sometime back and later on it was turned into an Act. In accordance with its provisions a Custodian General was appointed. The intention was to fix compensation for the property left by non-Muslims in Pakistan and by the Muslims in India. The attitude of Pakistan in this matter was not very helpful. On the 25th of October a resolution was passed by this House that the provisions of the ordinance were not such as might assuage the feelings of the refugees. This House felt that the refugees were not going to have any appreciable advantages out of the steps proposed to be taken in respect of compensation in the said ordinance. The voice of the House was carried to proper quarters and the Government itself is sparing no efforts to put pressure on the Government of India so that adequate compensation for the losses suffered by the refugees may be made available to them. Under these circumstances, there was no need for His Excellency the Governor to make a mention of this matter in his Address. This matter concerns the Central Government and the Parliament is aware of the facts of the case. The attention of the hon. Members has been constantly drawn towards them.

As regards urban rehabilitation the Government is doing its utmost. Twelve new model towns have been raised, 420 buildings and 680 building sites have been offered. The buildings left by the evacuee Muslims are insufficient for accommodating those who have come from West Punjab. So efforts are being made to settle the refugees elsewhere. One and a half lakhs are expected to be settled in the new capital. Building loans for this purpose may be advanced. Some of the hon. Members are of the opinion that there is no need for building the capital at Chandigarh. They say that any

[Chief Minister]

existing city in the Punjab may be selected for the purpose. But they must know that no city can satisfy the needs because all of them are so much congested that we cannot find any accommodation for the offices or for residential purposes there. The building of a new city to be the capital of Punjab is, as a matter of fact, a scheme aimed at rehabilitating those people who have gone over to U. P. and Delhi. We should try to attract them back to their home province so that they may come back and make Punjab prosperous by their efforts. The construction of a new capital is a part of the scheme of rehabilitation. No existing city can cope with so many offices and people. So on the advice of Government of India a survey of various places was undertaken; various suggestions were considered and at one time a site near Rupur was proposed but later on Chandigarh site was considered most suitable for the purpose. Aerial survey and land survey were carried on and after consultation with the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Mayer was given the charge of preparing a plan of the new city. Mr. Mayer visited the site and approved its choice. In his opinion no better place could be chosen. So the decision was finally made. In the new city accommodation for one lakh twenty thousand persons will be arranged. A part of this population will consist of Government servants. But the major portion will be that of the displaced persons. The persons whose lands will be taken will get lands elsewhere. Adequate compensation will be given for their buildings, wells and trees etc. Those of them who wish to get land in the capital will get it at cheaper rates, so that they may build houses and shops and do whatever work they wish to do in the capital.

Regarding grow more food campaign I don't wish to say anything at this stage because this matter will come up during the course of the budget discussions.

As regards corruption it is surprising that the hon. Member should have made such remarks. I have no hesitation in saying that corruption has increased not only in this State but also in the country.

At this Mehta Ranbir Singh thumped his table and shouted "hear hear"

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It appears the hon. Member is very happy on this.

Chief Minister : What I regret is that the people bribe officials in order to gain advantages or derive benefits.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister referring to the steel quota holders ?

Chief Minister : No, I am referring to persons who do that for taking petrol pumps. Sir, we appeal to the services to put an end to corrupt practices which not only bring discredit to themselves but to the Government also. They should now feel that they are from amongst us. Now that time has passed when they had to indulge in corruption with a view to pleasing the British masters. Now our country is free from foreign yoke. They should be honest in their dealings and discharge their duties in such a manner that their integrity is unquestioned. They should desist from doing anything which is likely to tarnish the fair name of the services. They should serve Punjab as Punjabis and carry out their duties without any fear or favour from anybody. I hope my appeal will not fall flat on the services. I would appeal to the people of the Punjab as well. They should help the Government

in the eradication of the evil of corruption. The general difficulty is that the people bribe the officers to gain advantages or derive benefits. I would ask them not to offer illegal gratification to any member of the services. The department of Civil Supplies has earned a bad name because it is said that corruption is rampant in it. The trouble is that more often than not it is the trading classes that offer temptation to the officials with a view to gaining some end. I may make it clear to the people and I hope that they would realise it that the controls are for the benefit of the country as a whole and not for an individual. They would do well to abide by them in their own interests. (*Hear, hear*). They should try to be content with the share that is due to them under the controls. Corruption begins when some people want to enjoy at the cost of others and deprive them of the commodities under control. I am therefore, of the opinion that corrupt practices could be brought to an end if the public extended its helping hand to the Government by refraining from offering bribes to the services.

Chaudhri Samar Singh : May I submit to the hon. Chief Minister that mere appeals would not serve any useful purpose. The need of the hour is that instead of preaching like a Mahatma, he should put an end to the evil with a strong hand.

Chief Minister: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for having drawn my attention to this fact. I may tell him that appeals and an iron hand go side by side. (*Hear, hear*). I assure the House that along with the appeals we are going to employ a strong hand also. Whosoever ignores this warning shall do so at his own peril. (*Loud applause*).

Then, Sir, during the course of his Address, His Excellency remarked that this session had been summoned to discuss and pass the budget. Some of my hon. Friends have criticised the non-inclusion of certain matters in the Address. They should know that the proposals contained in the budget cannot be divulged or made public before it is presented. No body, not even His Excellency the Governor can disclose the nature of the contents of the budget. Nor can anybody anticipate the proposals made therein. So to criticise certain things by merely anticipating them does not look proper and I have no mind to reply them. Then a mention has been made about certain legislative measures. Although they will come before the House in due course, yet hon. Members have been intimated as to what kind of Bills are being put forward.

Then reference was made to certain matters which will come in for discussion during the Budget session. However, I would like to say something on the subject of consolidation of holdings. This House has already given its verdict on this matter in the form of an enactment. Besides this compulsory consolidation, an Act stopping further fragmentation of holdings too, has been passed indicating the keen desire of the Government to do something substantial in the matter of consolidation of holdings. Now the question is about the implementation of these Acts. As you are aware, Sir, for purposes of consolidation two things are extremely necessary. The first is the money and the other is trained personnel to bring about consolidation of holdings. Although the money required for the purpose of consolidation is to be realised from the zamindars whose holdings will be consolidated, yet the fact remains that the realisation of the charges would be made after the operation of consolidation has been carried out. In other words Government will have to incur huge expenditure as an initial cost.

[Chief Minister]

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I inform the [hon. Chief Minister that the people who want to have their lands consolidated are offering necessary money in advance?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend says that the zamindars are prepared to pay the money in advance.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No question of preparedness, they are offering it in advance so that their lands may be consolidated as early as possible.

Chief Minister : May be so. But if Government takes money in advance and the work is delayed due to some unavoidable reasons, then men like my hon. Friend would lose no time to decry the Government on that score.

Sardar Bachan Singh: That is obvious.

Chief Minister : The second necessity is the need of trained men who can do the job of consolidation of holdings. This is a work which cannot be accomplished without honest men. Then our patwaris are busy in doing rehabilitation work; even men doing consolidation work under the auspices of the Cooperative Department have been loaned out to the Rehabilitation Department in connection with allotment of lands to the refugees. We hoped that our Patwaris would be free from Rehabilitation Department by January first. But since the allotment has not been completed, it is expected that by April 1, they will be available for employment in the work of consolidation of holdings. So it all depends upon when these Patwaris and Qanungos are free to take up the task of consolidation of holding. I, therefore, assure the House that on April 1, all the Patwaris that are available will be put on this work provided the money is forthcoming from the intending zamindars. But if the number of zamindars offering money is fairly large and we have also sufficiently large number of Patwaris and Qanungoes at our disposal, we will not have the slightest objection in undertaking the work of consolidation. (*Hear, hear*).

Then, Sir, I feel it necessary to say something about a matter which is not connected with the Budget and which may not come in for discussion during the Budget session. It has been said that if war with Pakistan is looming large on the horizon, why should not the people be warned about it before hand. My point is that it is the job of the Central Government to declare war or decide not to have it. As a matter of fact Defence does not fall within the purview of the provincial sphere. Only the other day the Prime Minister of India stressed upon the people in a broadcast that they should refrain from talking of war because it was not their job. Government of India was responsible for their defence. I, therefore, maintain that whether war breaks out or not, whether any emergency arises or not, we must always remain in a state of preparedness to defend our country. By our loose talk we are likely to create such conditions as may give false idea to the other country that we are getting panicky. In this way the country from which attack is expected, becomes more aggressive in its intentions. I would impress upon the people to make every endeavour to maintain internal security. They should create such a formidable power in themselves that they can face any situation bravely and resist the aggressor with all their might.

It has been said that we do not pay our attention towards anything. It has also been said that we have not done anything substantial for the rural masses. At this stage I cannot say anything except this that we have done one thing and that is this. My hon. Friends know it full well that the All India Congress Committee appointed an Economic Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. The Report of this Committee has been published and we have studied it. We have also studied the Report of the Rural Development Planning Committee written by Shri Kumara-rappa. We have also sent copies of this Report to all the Heads of the Departments who are concerned with the beneficent activities of the State. It will not be out of place to mention here that this Report is based on the principles of Sarvodya Samaj and also the principles laid down by the Father of the Nation. After closely studying both the reports we have set up a Rural Development Board. This Board was asked to select some village which would serve as a model village where training would be imparted to workers and other people in every walk of life. After active consideration this Board has selected village Oel as the centre for starting this work. Training in agriculture, industries and other spheres of life concerning almost all the departments would be imparted to people in this centre. It is our intention to train people in every walk of life. They will be given training to help in the growth of food in the country and in the cottage industries and they will also be taught to improve themselves with a view to helping themselves. We want our people to have honest means of living. We do not believe in any class war. We are working according to the principles laid down by the Father of the Nation.

It has also been said that Government has been securing loans for Bhakra and Nangal Projects and that nothing has been achieved so far. However, I wish to make this point clear that these projects, when completed, would be mainly instrumental in increasing our agricultural wealth and in providing electricity for domestic and industrial purposes. We spend money on these projects to achieve these objects. For the information of the hon. Members I may add here that a booklet has been published by the Government which contains all the information regarding its activities. It will not be out of place to mention here that there are 15573 villages in our State. Government is and has been making all-out efforts to improve the lot of the people both in the towns and villages.

It has also been said that nothing substantial has been done to improve the lot of the rural masses who form the majority of the population. At this stage I am not in a position to say anything except this that a lot has been done for them. After studying the Budget, the hon. Members would be able to see for themselves how much we have done and how much could be done in view of the present financial position. We have done whatever we could with the best possible intentions.

I have said many things in reply to the objections raised by some of my hon. Friends. There are certain points which remain yet to be replied and I shall reply them at the time of General Discussion on the Budget. In the end, I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that it is but meet and proper on our part to offer our whole-hearted thanks to His Excellency the Governor for delivering his Address under the New Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: The following members have expressed their desire to withdraw the amendments standing against their names:—

Shri Behari Lal Chanana,
Chaudhri Lahri Singh,
Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha,
Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma,
Shrimati Sita Devi,
Sardar Ajit Singh,
Shri Prabodh Chandra,
Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar and
Master Gurbanta Singh.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments standing against the names of these Members be withdrawn?

Honourable Members: Yes.

The amendments were by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—
but regrets that

- (a) no steps have been proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the displaced tenants (Sharnarathi Muzaras) ;
- (b) no definite assurance has been given to expand the sphere of activities of the Beneficent Departments ;
- (c) no promise has been made to ameliorate the conditions of Lower Grade and Subordinate Services ;
- (d) no mention has been made to bring in a Bill to stop the ejectments of the tenants.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker :- Question is—

That at the end of the motion the following be added :—
but regrets that

- (a) no assurance has been given to protect and safeguard the fundamental rights of free citizens of the State;
- (b) that no steps have been promised to be taken to safeguard the civil liberties of the people;
- (c) that no definite proposals have been laid down to check corruption, nepotism, favouritism, inefficiency and red-tapism prevalent in the administration;
- (d) that no definite relief has been promised to the landless displaced rural people.

The Assembly divided.

Ayes 4 ;

Noes 52.

AYES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.

Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

Noes.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Amar Nath Vidyalandkar, Shri.
Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Shri.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
Buja Ram, Bhagat Shri.
Dalip Singh, Thakur.
Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Hon. Dr.
Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The Hon.
Sardar.
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar.
Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.
Inder Singh, Sardar.
Isnar Singh Mujhail, Sardar.
Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
Jiwan Lal, Pandit.
Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
Kartar Singh Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kehr Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
Lehna Singh Sethi, The Hon.
Dr.

Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
Mehr Chand, Chaudhri.
Mohar Singh, Rao.
Narinder Singh, Sant.
Narotam Singh, The Hon. Sardar.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati, Dr.
Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Prithvi Singh Azad, The Hon.
Shri.
Ranjit Singh, Captain.
Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri,
Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
Sant Ram Seth. Dr.
Sarmukh Singh. Sardar.
Sher Singh, Chaudhri.
Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
Shiv Singh, Sardar.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sita Devi, Shrimati.
Sudarshan, Seth.
Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.
Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
Waryam Singh, Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That at the end of the Motion the following be added:—
but regrets that

- (a) no mention has been made therein regarding the working of freedom of expression and speech in public meetings in the State nor any assurance given for honest and just criticism;
- (b) no steps have been suggested to root out corruption prevailing in the administration of the State;
- (c) no assurance is given to separate the judiciary from the executive and
- (d) no steps have been suggested to make "Prohibition" a success in the State.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker . Question is —

That the Members of this House assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to His Excellency the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Thursday, 9th March, 1950.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

9th March 1950

Vol. I — No. 4.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m.
of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh)
in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REFUGEE CAMPS

*1495. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of refugee camps run by the Government at present ;
- (b) the total number of refugees living in them ;
- (c) the total number of refugees receiving ration from the Government ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering the proposal to close them down in the near future; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) 26, including Women Homes.
- (b) 1,10,442 as reported on 11-2-50.
- (c) 3277.

(d) Gratuitous relief in the general camps has been liquidated. Mud huts have been constructed at the sites of the camps for provision of roofed shelter to the displaced persons. The question of closing down the camps does not, therefore, arise.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I know as to when these huts would be completed?

Minister : More than 8000 huts have already been completed and already 41,000 refugees are living in them.

Shri Virendra : May I know what are the means of livelihood of the people living in those huts?

Minister: The people who live in huts, work in the nearby towns and thus earn their living.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the hon. Minister ever tried to find out that the work done by such people does not bring income enough to support their families?

Minister : I often keep enquiring about it from the people. I find that their earnings are sufficient for the maintenance of their families. In case any body is unable to earn his living, he is kept in Infirm Homes and is given rations for himself and his dependents.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the displaced persons living in the huts have not got the profession which they had in West Punjab?

Minister : There are people who have not succeeded in getting the means of livelihood which they had in Pakistan and it is also possible that their earnings are not sufficient for making their both ends meet.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that a large number of displaced persons are unemployed?

Minister : No. That is not a fact. However, the persons who cannot earn their livelihood are kept in Infirm Houses and are given free rations.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that at Jullundur in the Bhargava camp, the number of unemployed people is very large? Will the hon. Minister order an enquiry into this matter?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is an expression of opinion.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Will the hon. Minister please state the life of these huts?

Minister : I can't tell that.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I know if those huts will not collapse in the coming rainy season ?

Minister : We have received no such information in the past.

TOWNS FOR REFUGEES

***1497. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of new towns built in the State for the purpose of rehabilitation of the refugees :—
- (b) the total number of houses in each town ;
- (c) the total number of houses sanctioned in each town ;
- (d) the total number of houses vacant in each town ;
- (e) the details of amenities provided for the residents ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Twelve.
- (b), (c) and (d)

Serial No.	Name of town	No. of houses constructed.	No. of houses auctioned,	No. of houses lying vacant.
		(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Jullundur	500	338	
2	Hoshiarpur	200	49	76
3	Ludhiana	473	342	13
4	Khanna	202	24	31
5	Jagadhri	402	234	96
6	Karnal	500	172	98
7	Panipat	498	432	...
8	Rohtak	200	87	8
9	Sonepat	200	112	10
10	Gurgaon	200	174	9
11	Palwal	200	18	113
12	Rewari	298	41	230
Total		3873	2023%	684@

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

% In addition to 2023 houses sold to displaced persons, 448 houses were reserved and placed at the disposal of the Defence Rehabilitation Organisation, Government of India, for allotment to the displaced serving soldiers. This organisation has recently surrendered 100 houses out of their quota. About 108 houses have so far been occupied by the displaced serving soldiers and the remaining ones are yet lying vacant. 1058 unsold houses are leased out to Government Departments, Government servants and displaced persons at an annual rental of 4½% of the outlay.

This includes a large number of houses not yet occupied by the displaced serving soldiers.

- (e) It is planned to provide all modern amenities of life in these townships. Open spaces, lawns, parks and wide roads have been provided. All these roads have been metalled and tarred. In these townships of Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, additional approach roads have been constructed linking the colonies with the main arteries of communication so as to avoid congestion of traffic. Permanent electricity both for street lighting and domestic consumption is now in the course of being provided. The townships of Jullundur, Ludhiana, Karnal, Sonapat, Panipat, Gurgaon and Jagadhri have already been energised and the work of giving domestic connections is in progress. The supply of power to the remaining townships is likely to be completed by September, 1950. Temporary water supply arrangements have already been provided in all the townships. Schemes for providing permanent water supply and underground drainage have been sanctioned and work on these schemes has sufficiently progressed. Shopping centres are now being created in these townships and about 200 shops are under construction which would be completed by the end of May, 1950. Sanitary and scavenging staff has also been posted in the townships. Police posts to create a sense of security amongst the residents have been established in all the townships.

A statement showing details of amenities provided for the residents is placed on the table. ‡

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state reasons for which a very small number of these houses has been auctioned at certain places ?

Minister : It was perhaps due to the fact that the people did not require houses at those places or the refugees did not want to settle there.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the places where houses could not be auctioned ?

Minister : This happened mostly at three places namely, Palwal, Rewari and Khanna.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that only 87 out of 200 houses could be auctioned at Rohtak ? May I know the cause of this fact.

Minister : As regards Rohtak, refugees might not have liked to settle there for fear of my hon. Friend. As regards other places the distance from towns might be the cause.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Should I take it that at other places houses have been purchased on account of people's regard for the hon. Minister ?

Minister : They have done so out of regard for the local people.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government decided to auction the houses to the local people at places where they could not be auctioned to the displaced persons.

Minister : It has been decided to rent those houses to the local persons at Palwal, Rewari and Khanna.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that at Rohtak the local persons are also occupying these houses ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : They pay rent for them.

‡ Kept in the library

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the hon. Member from Khanna had written to the Government that the model township there should not be built at the place where it has been built because it was a low-lying area ?

Minister : I am not aware of this but I can let the House know after making enquiries.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he has himself seen the buildings in these townships; if so, is there any such defect in them ?

Minister : I have not seen all of them. But I have been to Khanna and have seen the township.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that many of these houses in the new townships are lying vacant ? Does the Government intend giving them to local people where the displaced persons are not willing to occupy ?

Minister : Where we are unable to sell the houses, they can be given on rent to the displaced persons. And even then if no tenant are forthcoming from among the displaced persons, local people can also get them on rent.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Have the Government fixed any rent for this purpose ?

Minister : The rent charged is generally $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cost of the building.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the buildings in some of these townships have not been occupied because the selection of the sites for them has not been satisfactory ? In Rohtak, for example, the site is far removed from the railway station.

Minister : I quite agree with you.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What steps does the Government propose to take against those officers who advised the Government in the matter of selection of such sites, so that the repetition of such grave mistakes may be discouraged ?

Minister : I assure the hon. Members that in future such buildings will be built after due consideration.

FACILITIES TO DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING IN REFUGEE CAMPS

***1502. Shri Virendra.** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Muslims who had left East Punjab have recently been resettled in Jagadhri and the Government has decided to grant them monthly allowance of Rs. 12/- for each adult and Rs. 6/- for each minor;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether the Government propose to extend the same facility to non-Muslim displaced persons living in refugee camps?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, but Government are not giving them any monthly allowances. They are being advanced food loans at the rate of Rs. 12/- per each adult and Rs. 6/- for each minor specially prescribed by Government of India out of the sum of Rs. 20,000 exclusively sanctioned by the Government of India ;

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that this monthly allowance is given to the Muslim refugees while no such allowance is given to Hindu and Sikh refugees?

Minister : Government decided to give this allowance to the Muslim refugees at Jagadhri.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma Is it a fact that help given to Hindu and Sikh refugees is less than that given to the Muslim refugees at Jagadhri?

Minister : Of course, it is less.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is this an additional help?

Minister : As a matter of fact this food allowance is in addition to other help that is being given to refugees.

Shri Virendra : Why is this privilege enjoyed by Muslim refugees only?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is a secular state, (*Laughter*).

DISCOUNT IN RENTS OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

***1503. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government has issued any instructions withdrawing the concession of $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ discount in the rents of the evacuee property in the State, if so, the reasons thereof?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : The Government of India have passed orders that fair rents should be charged for all evacuee properties. Necessary instructions have accordingly been issued by the Custodian to all District Rent Officers. This would result in the withdrawal, as such, of the concession referred to by the hon. Member, but the effect on each tenant will depend upon whether the house was over-or, under-assessed. In the former class of cases some tenants will stand to gain as the reduction may amount to over $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not unfair to withdraw the $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ reduction that was allowed by the Government on the fair rents of evacuee property? Will it not hithard the refugees who are occupying the evacuee houses?

Minister : The charging of fair rent will, in fact, help the poor refugees. For instance, the house of the former Muslim President of Batala Municipal Committee which has thirty two rooms was assessed for a rent of rupees seven only while an adjacent house having only three rooms was assessed for rupees eight. Two very big officers are living in a Muslim house at Jullundur and they are paying rupees sixteen as rent. The building where the state Congress office is situated at Jullundur was assessed at rupees twenty only per month. The rent was assessed on the basis of the rent which was assessed before the partition. It has been found that the houses belonging to rich Muslims have been assessed the least and those belonging to poor Muslims have been assessed higher. I am sure that the charging of fair rent will help the refugees who are occupying the house of poor Muslims.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Who will judge whether the assessment is proper or not?

Minister : The authorities.

Shri Virendra : Is the Government prepared to associate non-officials in the matter of assessment ?

Minister : Even at present there are such committees of non-officials at some places. Where there are no committees an appeal can be made to the higher quarters and the grievances can thus be got redressed.

Shri Virendra : What is the harm in constituting such non-official committees at all the places ?

Minister : The assesment can be carried out by the machinery which exists for regular assessment and no useful purpose can be served by departing from the regular procedure.

ACUTE HOUSING SHORTAGE IN THE STATE.

***1507. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the acute housing shortage in the State; if so, do the Government intend to introduce compulsory rationing of accommodation to enable displaced persons to settle down somewhere; if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sathi : No. Lower, middle, and middle class housing is already over-crowded. Rationing will make accommodation available only in houses occupied by very well-to-do people. Such availability is very very small compared to our needs. At best, therefore, rationing will prove only a doubtful political stunt and might enable Government to shelve the issue for six months. But it is no solution to our problem.

Shri Virendra : Do I take it that it is not the intention of the Government to introduce rationing in the palatial buildings belonging to affluent people ?

Minister : This question was thoroughly examined in all its bearings. As a matter of fact the number of such residences is not very large and only a very small number of refugees will be housed if the accommodation is rationed. Government, therefore, decided not to harass the owners for this purpose.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether there is any harm in utilising whatever accommodation is made available through rationing in such bungalows ?

Minister : The difficulty is that the refugees to be housed in the rooms of such bungalows, may not be able to pay rents which are bound to be very high. Government, therefore, considered it undesirable to put the owners of the bungalows to unnecessary harassment. Besides, refugees living in camps prefer to have small huts outside the towns. In this connection I may assure the House that Government has chalked out a scheme as a result of which not a single refugee will be found shelterless by June next. (Hear, hear).

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister that a large number of houses have been taken over by the Government for the purpose of providing accommodation to the Government employees or Government offices whereas the same should have gone to the refugees ?

Minister : Yes, there are certain houses which have been taken over by the Government, but I cannot tell their number off-hand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that houses left by Muslims, whether under individual or joint ownership, have been allotted to the officers or to public institutions like the Provincial Congress Committee which has been provided with such a house ? If so, why should not the same be given to the refugees ?

Minister : The public institution mentioned by my hon. Friend had its Head Office at Lahore and it had to migrate as a refugee. So it had every right, like other refugees, to demand shelter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether houses have been allotted to such public institutions which had their offices in Pakistan or those also which already existed here ?

Minister : No such institution has been allotted any accommodation whose office was already situated in the East Punjab.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : In view of the acute shortage of houses, will it not be desirable that the hon. Ministers and high officials, occupying spacious bungalows, should voluntarily agree to reduce their own requirements and offer the spare accommodation to others ?

Minister : Hon. Members are already aware that all evacuee houses have been allotted or rationed. There is a small number of houses which have not been rationed and they were given to the officers because they needed a little more space. So far as Ministers, bungalows are concerned, I can speak for myself that any hon. Member is welcome to utilise whatever spare accommodation is available in my residence.

Chief Minister : I may inform the House that Simla is not a refugee station. Only those belonging to essential services can live here.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : My object in putting this question is that if the hon. Ministers and the high officials voluntarily reduce their own requirements and offer spare accommodation in their residences for housing refugees, they would be setting an excellent example to the public at large who would be induced to follow in the footsteps of the Ministers.

Minister : I thank the hon. Member for his fine sentiments.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it a fact that owners of brick kilns have not been provided with coal under pretext of shortage of it ?

Minister : This has nothing to do with the question.

Sardar Bachan Singh : This question is allied to the shortage of houses.

Minister : Then I may tell the hon. Member that now the condition of an applicant for coal, to be an old brick kiln owner, no longer exists. Any person who wants to burn bricks with a view to supplying the same for house construction, can apply and get coal in large quantities. So far as supply of coal to the rural areas is concerned, I may inform him that a large quantity of coal was procured but sufficient number of applicants were not forthcoming to

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

consume it. The result was that a large surplus of coal was lying there. If the hon. Member has any applicant in view, I would certainly arrange for the supply of coal to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government had fully satisfied itself that all the big evacuee houses which were allotted to the refugees had no^t more space for accommodating more refugees?

Minister : No instance has come to my knowledge wherein evacuee house allotted to a person contained more space which could be further utilised for housing refugees. If the hon. Member is in the know of any such building, he is welcome to bring it to my notice. I will see that proper action is taken in the matter.

PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BILLS OF LOCAL BODIES

***1513. Sardar Waryam Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has made payments of any outstanding bills due to contractors of the Local Bodies of districts now comprised in West Punjab ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Certain assumptions have been made in the question which do not appear to be correct. In the first place, payments for outstanding bills due to contractors of Local Bodies are to be made by the Local Bodies and not by Government. Secondly, it is not understood why this Government should have made payments for any outstanding bills of contractors for supplies made or services rendered by them to local bodies in districts now comprised in Punjab (Pakistan). The Inter-Dominion Agreement of 1948 had directed that all amounts due from Government or the quasi-Government bodies, like the University, District and Municipal Boards and other Local Bodies should be payable by them direct to the evacuee concerned without the intervention of the Custodian and should only be subject to any agreements regarding exchange control between the two Governments. Like many other clauses of this Inter-Dominion Agreement, this particular clause has also not been implemented so far. Discussions, however, are still in progress but it cannot be said what the result of these discussions would be.

**SHAMBU RAM, SUB-INSPECTOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES,
AMBALA**

***1419. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Shambu Ram, Sub-Inspector Co-operative Societies, while discussing the case of his service and increments with the Assistant Registrar, Ambala, fainted and remained senseless for half an hour on 8th September, 1949;
- (b) whether Government has received a full report of this incident, if so, what are the facts about the case?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes, but the Sub-Inspector fainted and remained unconscious for a couple of minutes only.
- (b) First part- No.
Second part - Does not arise.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know what was the cause of his fainting? I feel that this was due to bad treatment which he received at the hands of the Assistant Registrar?

Minister : Information is being collected and when it is ready, it will be passed on to him.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it not a fact that the said person fainted as a result of the harassment by the officer?

Chief Minister : I think a person who is so weak as to faint before his officer, is not fit for Government Service.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether this Sub-Inspector was actually suffering from some malady that he fainted or it was due to the harsh treatment which he received at the hands of the Officer?

Minister : I require notice for this.

SUGAR RATION IN URBAN AREAS

***1421. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that sugar ration allowed in urban areas of the Punjab is smaller than the ration allowed in Delhi;
- (b) the reasons for this difference ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) The answer is in the affirmative.
- (b) The ration per head in this State is fixed on the basis of allocation of sugar made by the Central Government. All that is received is distributed. This disparity has been pointed out to the Centre.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that this disparity exists between Delhi and Punjab? Is it also a fact that this disparity exist in Punjab too where in some areas more quota of sugar is given than in the others ?

Minister : This disparity exists between Delhi and Punjab about which the question is concerned.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the reason why differential treatment is meted out to the Punjab only when in the other State sugar quota is fixed at one seer per head. In the light of the above fact, why sugar quota of twelve chhatanks is fixed per head in the Punjab?

Chief Minister : Better ask the Government of India.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is not the Punjab Government responsible for it? Has it represented its case to the Government of India. Have they refused to allocate more sugar to the Punjab ?

Chief Minister : It is wrong to say that our request has been refused. The attention of Government of India has already been drawn to the disparity referred to.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the same quota which was given in the previous quarter continues to be given now. What are the reasons for meting out this differential treatment to the Punjab only?

Chief Minister : Better ask the Government of India.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Government of India do not often accept the requests made by the Punjab Government?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

Chief Minister : It may be probably due to those hon. Members who go there and make complaints against their Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if a disallowed question can be replied to ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : the hon. Chief Minister has just now stated that it was better for the hon. Member to ask the Government of India. May I know if he is prepared to approach the Government of India on behalf of this House for removing this disparity?

Minister : We have represented our case to the Government of India.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that so far as this disparity regarding the allocation of sugar is concerned, some person has complained to the Government of India and has impressed upon them not to accept the requests made by the hon. Ministers ?

IRON AND STEEL SCANDAL CASES

***1454. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any fresh cases after October, 1949, have been registered in addition to those already registered in connection with the iron and steel scandal ;
- (b) the total expenditure already incurred on the pending cases?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) No fresh case for contravention of Iron and Steel Control Order was registered after October, 1949.
- (b) An expenditure of Rs. 54305/5/6 has been incurred in connection with iron and steel cases till 26-2-50.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if it was not felt necessary to make necessary enquiries?

Minister : No enquiry was held.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Does this mean that nobody resorted to blackmarketing?

Minister : yes.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has the Government received any complaint in this connection.

Minister : No complaint has been received by the Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it a fact that out of all the cases pending with the Government, prosecutions in respect of 4 cases only have been started so far?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have any instructions been issued by the Government to the effect that efforts should not be made to register such cases ?

Chief Minister : Before my taking over the charge, it had been decided that prosecutions should be started in those cases only about which enquiries had been made and that other cases should not be dealt with.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government decided not to deal with other cases ? Is the public aware of this fact?

Chief Minister : I do not know whether it is within the knowledge of the public. I only know the decision of the Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government feels the necessity to revise its decision?

Chief Minister : It is being revised.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is the Government aware of the fact that during the regime of the previous Government, complaints were made to the effect that action was taken against some persons belonging to the other group?

Chief Minister : But we have only one Government.

**REPRESENTATION FROM THE STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT
HOSIERY INSTITUTE, LUDHIANA**

***1488. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state ;

(a) whether he has received any representation from the staff of the Government Hosiery Institute, Ludhiana, wherein serious charges of corruption, nepotism and favouritism have been made against the Principal of the Institution;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know as to why enquiries have not been made by the hon. Minister in this matter?

Minister : No such complaint has been received. The question of a reply does not arise.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** When there has been no complaint what does the hon. Lady Member want to know?

Shrimati Sita Devi : I had given notice of this question for making necessary enquiries.

Chief Minister : According to the Rules when hon. Members give notices of questions, they have to say that they are responsible for the authenticity of those questions. In this case when the reply is that no representation was received, how did the hon. Lady Member authenticate the correctness of the question?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of this fact that Government did not receive any representation may I know if it has any knowledge about it?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Is that a question?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that certain charges of corruption have been made against the Principal of the Institute? Has the Government any knowledge about it?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall make enquiries.

SPINNING AND WEAVING CENTRE, JULLUNDUR

***1489. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of refugee women who are supplied cotton for Spinning by the Government Weaving and Spinning Centre at Jullundur?
- (b) the average daily wages of a Spinner ;
- (c) the monthly expenses for the up-keep of Spinning and Weaving Centre at Jullundur?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) There are 1050 refugee Women who are supplied Cotton under the Cotton Spinning and Weaving scheme at Jullundur.
- (b) Spinning is being done as a part-time supplementary occupation. A Spinner on an average earns from Rs. -/2/6 to Rs. -/3/- per day by working from 4 to 5 hours a day.
- (c) The monthly expenses for the up-keep of Spinning and Weaving Centres at Jullundur is reported to be Rs. 5450 -

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon Minister has stated the number of refugee women who are supplied cotton for spinning, may I know if there are any refugee women there at present ? Is he aware of the fact that at present there is no refugee woman there ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I thank you for the information.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that there is no woman over there?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Lady Member is supplying rather than seeking information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that heaps of hand-woven and hand-spun cloth go on accumulating in these centres and that these are not easily sold in the market?

Chief Minister : Arrangements are being made to sell these.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that not even one per cent income has accrued to these centres on which huge amounts are being spent?

Chief Minister : There is no loss whatsoever.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has he ever inspected these centres?

Minister for Development : Yes, now and then.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Do those in charge of these centres wear khaddar?

Minister : I don't know.

TRACTORS PURCHASED BY THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

*1520. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 126 tractors purchased by the Punjab Government through the Central Government only 38 tractors were found to be in working order ;
- (b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the circumstances under which the Punjab Government took delivery of such a large number of unserviceable tractors ;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been made into this matter ; if so the result thereof ;
- (d) the total amount paid by the Government for all the tractors ;

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

- (e) the steps taken by the Government to recover the value of tractors which have been found to be unserviceable ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes .
- (b) Soon after the partition of the Province, the Central Government were requested to purchase tractors for the cultivation of large tracts of land of evacuee Muslims in this State. The tractors purchased were worked in this State by the Central Tractor Organisation of Government of India upto the 31st July 1949, when they were transferred to this Government, as the Central Government were not prepared to work them on this Government's behalf any longer. Due to heavy and continuous working for more than a year, most of the tractors were rendered unworkable. The lack of spare parts also contributed to this state of affairs. As the tractors were originally purchased for this State, it was not possible to refuse to take them over. Most of the tractors have now been set right and are working.
- (c) No enquiry was necessary. The condition of tractors at the time of taking over was fully examined in the presence of the officers of the Government of India, and their signatures were taken on the statements showing the condition of each tractor taken over. Since then the depreciated value of each tractor has also been obtained from the firms concerned.
- (d) No payment has been made to the Government of India so far. The matter is under correspondence with that Government.
- (e) In view of reply at (d) this does not arise.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that out of the 269 unservicable tractors received by the Government of India 88 tractors have come to the share of this State ?

Chief Minister : We had to take all those tractors which were being used in this State by the Central Tractor Organisation. It is not true that we accepted any tractors used in other States.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it not a fact that sometime back, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram while replying to a question in the Parliament stated that 298 such tractors were received by them as were not in working order? The hon. Chief Minister has admitted in his reply that 88 unserviceable tractors have been received by them. May I know why our State has received such a large proportion of those unserviceable tractors and if these unserviceable tractors will not hamper the work?

Chief Minister : Some tractors were given by the Government of India to the Central Tractor Organisation for use on Muslim evacuee's land in this State. They were in perfect working order at that time. When the Government of India decided not to work them on our behalf any longer, these were handed over to us and 88 of them were not found in working order. We have however purchased spare parts and these will be made fit again.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Were they not in working order at the time when they were taken over by the Punjab Government?

Chief Minister : It was after use for one year in this State that they became unserviceable.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know the period after which each of the unserviceable tractors became unserviceable?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEES

***1360. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state : -

- (a) the constitution of the District Public Relations Committees, their Rules of Procedure and the work entrusted to them ;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the district authorities generally do not like these committees and are not enthusiastic about the public co-operation ;

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

- (c) the districts in the State in which regular monthly meetings of the District Public Relations Committees have not been called and the districts where more than one such meeting is held in a month ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Two statements showing the constitution and functions of these Committees are laid on the table. ‡
- (b) No. In fact, reports from the District Officers show that the members of these Committees are, generally speaking not displaying much enthusiasm nor evincing a keen interest in their work.
- (c) First part.

Regular monthly meetings could not be held in the districts of Gurdaspur, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Rohtak, Ludhiana and Hissar.

Second Part.

Two meetings were held in the Gurgaon District in the months of June, July and October, 1949.

Two meetings were held in the Ludhiana district in the month of June.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government got any facts and figures as to the number of meetings called, the number of members who attended and the number of meetings where quorum was lacking ? If the Government has not got such figures, on what basis has it reached the conclusion that the members of these Committees are not evincing keen interest in their work ?

Chief Minister : We do not have these figures but reports have reached us warranting this conclusion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How is it that in certain districts such as Rohtak and Ambala, the Deputy Commissioners have not called even a single meeting ?

Minister for Land Revenue : Thank you for this information.

‡ Kept in the library.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that in November last, Lala Duni Chand personally complained to the Chief Minister that the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala was not prepared to call a meeting nor hear any complaints from them and had told them that he would not call a meeting until a reply was received from the Government? How could the Public Relations Committees function under such circumstances ?

Chief Minister : We shall have to write to the Deputy Commissioner in order to ascertain this matter. As regards Lala Duni Chand, he told me so many things that I don't remember whether it was one of them.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Have any instructions been issued after the 18th October, modifying the original provision that meetings of these Committees will be held every month ?

Chief Minister : No. No such instructions have been issued.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Has any Deputy Commissioner made a reference for further instructions in this matter ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member asks about any specific case, I will let him know.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Have those Deputy Commissioners been called to account for their negligence in not calling the meetings of these Committees ?

Chief Minister : No, no such explanation has been called.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is the cause of this negligence on the part of some Deputy Commissioners, despite clear instructions on the subject ?

Chief Minister : I am not prepared to give a reply to this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that owing to change in the Ministry, the Deputy Commissioners thought that there was no longer any need to observe these instructions since the old arrangements would be discontinued. After all, what is the reason that in the beginning a good deal of interest was shown in the matter but later on the Government became lukewarm.

Chief Minister : I am not prepared to reply to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it or is it not the policy of the Government to take action against those officers who do not comply with its instructions ?

Chief Minister : Action is taken against those who do not observe our instructions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When the District Public Relations Committees were constituted it was a practice to hold one meeting in a month; may I know why regular monthly meetings of the Committees have not been called ?

Chief Minister : I am not prepared to reply to this question.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the Government is prepared to consider denovo the question of reconstitution of this Committee ?

Mr. Speaker : No inference please.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the policy of the Government towards this committee continues to be the same or it has changed ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied to this question.

REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES OF CANDIDATES FROM HARYANA DISTRICTS

***1363. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it has been brought to his notice by Chaudhri Suraj Mal through a representation that in Government service, candidates from Haryana districts are ignored ;
- (b) the proportion of candidates from these districts to the total numbers accepted for the permanent and temporary posts filled before and after the last budget session ;

- (c) whether any action was taken on the representation of Chaudhri Suraj Mal in regard to the recruitment of Assistant Superintendents of Jails and Labour Inspectors; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) This information is not readily available. It is regretted that the time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with any benefit that may accrue.
- (c) Ist part. No, as representation to the various areas in the State cannot be given in view of the provisions of Article 10 (2) of the Constitution of India.

2nd part. Does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government ever considered the question of giving adequate representation in Government services to the candidates of Haryana Prant ?

Chief Minister : At present the policy of the Government is to recruit Punjabis in Government service and if suitable candidates are not available; the posts are thrown open to other people as well.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the highly placed Government officers generally recommend the cases of persons of their own ilaqa and on account of poor representation in services of Haryana Prant, candidates of these ilaqa are ignored ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No insinuation please.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that persons of territorial units other than Haryana Prant are holding high posts in Government departments and they generally make selection of candidates of their own ilaqa ; if so, what steps the Government intend to take to safeguard the interests of candidates of Haryana Prant ?

Chief Minister : Gazetted posts are advertised and the recruitment in such cases is made by the Public Service Commission. The Government has nothing to do in the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that after the names of suitable candidates for the posts of E. A. Cs. and Tehsildars are submitted to the Public Service Commission, the candidates who have no member of their own ilaqa on high posts to select names for rates Public Service Commission stand absolutely no chance of selection ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member quotes any particular instance, I will make enquiry into the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that persons belonging to Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon, Karnal, and Kangra are not generally recommended as there is no departmental head belonging to these districts ?

Mr. Speaker : I would not allow this question.

Chief Minister : The Heads of Departments recommended the names of suitable candidates from their ministerial establishment to the Chief Secretary who puts up the case to the Minister and after his approval, the names of such persons are forwarded to the Public Service Commission.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is not the Chief Secretary apt to show favouritism ?

Chief Minister : It is not necessary that the Minister may always agree to the proposals of Chief Secretary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the hon. Chief Minister would show some sympathy to the candidates of these four or five districts in order to give due share in services to these candidates?

Chief Minister : I myself belong to that ilaqa and it is just possible that a charge of favouritism may be levelled against me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government try to make up the deficiency in Government service and give due representation to the candidates of these districts ?

Chief Minister : If suitable persons are available Government will take steps to absorb them in Government services.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order Sir, I want your ruling on the point whether a Minister can prompt a member of the House to put a certain supplementary question. In this case the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad sent a chit to Shri Virendra to put a supplementary question asking whether the composition of public relations committees was on party lines ?

Chief Minister : This is a wrong insinuation and the hon. Member should withdraw it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Only the hon. Minister for Labour can say whether he sent a chit or not.

Mr. Speaker : I do not want that such insinuations should be made on the floor of the House. If the hon. Member is not sure he should withdraw it ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, let the hon. Minister deny what I have said.

Mr. Speaker : I do not know whether it is correct or not but all the same if it has been done there seems to be no harm in it. Next question, please.

REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES OF HARYANA PEOPLE

***1364. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that in Government services the representation of the Haryana people of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal districts is negligible ;
- (b) whether Government has come to a decision that all territorial units are represented in the services ;
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to make up their deficiency in services ; if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No.
- (b) No definite decision as suggested has been taken. But an effort will be made that all areas get adequate representation.
- (c) Does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government take necessary steps to collect figures to know as to which districts are poorly represented in Government service ?

Chief Minister : Steps will be taken if considered necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What methods will be adopted to collect this information ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member cannot force me to do anything which I do not consider necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not the misfortune of the candidates of these districts that they are ignored in Government services because the Chief Minister also belongs to Hissar ?

Chief Minister : It is my misfortune that I cannot solve their difficulties.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY MAGISTRATES AND GAZETTED POLICE OFFICERS

400. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :-

- (a) the total amount of Travelling Allowance drawn by each of the Magistrates and the Gazetted Police Officers of the state during the year 1949 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (b) whether any Government vehicles have been placed at the disposal of any of the aforesaid officers ; if so, the names of such officers together with the particulars of vehicles used by them ;
- (c) the names of the magistrates and gazetted police officers who are in possession of their own motor vehicles ;
- (d) the period spent by each of the Magistrates in Camps out of the district headquarters during the year 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : If this information is collected the results will not be commensurate with the labour involved.

CRIMINAL CASES OF VILLAGE SUR SINGH, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

401. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of cases relating to village Sur Singh registered at Bhikhiwind Police Station of Amritsar District from 1-7-44 to 30-6-49;
- (b) the nature and number of the cases, referred to above, of each category ;
- (c) the number of the cases which were traced and sent up for trial in the courts of law during the aforesaid period;
- (d) the number of murder cases traced and sent up for trial during the aforesaid period;
- (e) the number of the cases registered at other than Bhikhiwind police station against the inhabitants of this village ;
- (f) the population of this village according to the last census and the ratio of crime per thousand of population ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 143
- (b) Statement attached. ‡
- (c) 85
- (d) 7
- (e) 95
- (f) 7127-Ratio of crime per Thousand; 20

CRIMINAL CASES OF VILLAGE KAIRON, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

402. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of cases relating to village Kairon registered at Police Station Sarhali, district Amritsar from 1-2-46 to 31-1-50;
- (b) the nature and the number of the cases referred to above of each category;
- (c) the number of the cases of each category mentioned in part (b) above traced and sent up for trial in the courts of law during the aforesaid period ;
- (d) the number of the cases of kind in which accused were convicted by the trial courts ;
- (e) the number of cases registered against the inhabitants of this village during the aforesaid period at other than Sarhali Police Station ;
- (f) the population of the village according to the last census and the ratio of crime per thousand of the population.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) 78
- (b), (c) & (d). Kindly see attached statement. ‡
- (e) 16
- (f) 3389-Ratio of crime per thousand : 23

‡ Kept in the Library.

**CRIMINAL CASES IN SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE AREAS OF
AMRITSAR DISTRICT**

403. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

(a) the names of the areas where Small Town Committees exist at present in the Amritsar district ;

(b) the number of the criminal cases registered at the police stations from areas covered by these small Town Committees during the period 1.2.45 to 31.1.50.

(c) the nature and number of the crimes committed of each category ;

(d) the number of the cases of each category traced and sent up for trial in the courts during the aforesaid period.

(e) the number of the cases of each category in which accused were convicted during the aforesaid period ;

(f) the number of the cases registered at other than the local police post, or police stations against the inhabitants of each of the areas mentioned above ;

(g) the population of each of the above small town areas ;

(h) the ratio of crime per thousand of population in each area ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Reply is contained (Clause-wise) in the attached statement. ‡

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LAND IN VILLAGE BAHAR HARDO, TEHSIL KASUR

404. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the revenue records of village Bahari Hardo, Tehsil Kasur, District Lahore (Pakistan) have been received by the Government from Pakistan;

(b) the grade in which the land of the aforesaid village has been placed ;

(c) the total area of the land attached to this village together with area of nehri land, barani land, banjar qadim, banjar jadid separately;

‡ Kept in the Library

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(d) whether any land in lieu of the barani, banjar qadim and banjar jadid has been given to the owners of this village under the quasi permanent allotment scheme ;

(e) the definition of (a), (b) and (c) grades of land ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

(a) Yes.

(b) Grade II.

(c) Total area .. 7738 acres.

Nehri.4686 acres.

Barani836 acres.

Chahi312 acres.

Chahi thur 4 acres.

Banjar jadid .68 acres.

Banjar qadim...227 acres.

Thur1008 acres.

Ghair-mumkin. .597 acres.

(d) All kinds of cultivated land and banjar jadid lands have been valued for quasi permanent allotment.

(e) Land with a valuation of $15\frac{1}{2}$ annas and above is classed as grade I;

Land with a valuation of 13 annas or more but less than $15\frac{1}{2}$ annas is classed as grade II ;

Land with a valuation of $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas and above but less than 13 annas is classed as grade III ; and

Land with a valuation below $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas is graded as IV class.

EXPENDITURE ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

405. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the answer to my unstarred question No. 303 ‡ put on 11th october 1949 is ready.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. ‡

‡ Vide page (2) 22 of Vol. IV and also Appendit to that Volume

HIRE FOR MOTOR LORRY VEHICLES

406. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether reply to my unstarred question No. 309 put by me on 11.10.49 is ready ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : The information asked for unstarred question No. 309 ‡ has been collected and is sent herewith.

BICYCLES FOR POLICE

407. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether answer to my unstarred question No. 332 put on 24-10-49 is ready ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. A copy of the answer is attached. ¶

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of privilege, Sir. The Members of the Assembly have a right to move resolutions in the House. Certain restrictions have, however, been laid on the contents of resolutions. I will in this connection invite your attention to Rules 120 and 121. Rule 121 deals with the form of resolutions while Rule 120 lays down certain restrictions. I gave notice of a resolution which was duly admitted. I received a letter from the Assembly Office that my resolution had survived the ballot. I will read out the resolution.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not necessary for the hon. Member to read out the resolution. For his information I may inform the hon. Member that I could disallow it in the very beginning as it was not in proper form, but I did not do so and instead of that asked the hon. Member that, keeping in view the financial implications of the resolution, he should not press it, but he persisted. The resolution suggested that an Anti-corruption Officer should be elected on the basis of adult franchise which, if accepted, would mean a huge cost to the State

‡ Kept in the Library

¶ Vide Debates of 24-10-49.

[Mr. Speaker]

Exchequer. I, however, amended the resolution and admitted it in an amended form. By mistake the office sent a copy of the resolution to the hon. Member in its original form and when that mistake came to my notice I ordered that the mistake should be rectified, so that there is no question of privilege.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If you kindly listen to me, I will explain to you my view point also.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have explained to the hon. Member the whole position in detail and I would ask him to accept it and there the matter ends. As I have said I could have straightaway disallowed the resolution. The hon. Member should be thankful to me that I admitted it in an amended form.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, did you not go out of your way to oblige the hon. Member ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Of course, I did.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The Speaker had no right to disallow it if it was admissible under the rules. This House is being governed in a dictatorial manner.

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order. I take strong exception to these remarks. The hon. Member must withdraw them.

✓ **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** I withdraw those remarks. Still I maintain that the hon. Speaker could amend the resolution in form and not in substance.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is interpreting the rules in a wrong way.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I protest against these arbitrary rulings and I withdraw from the Chamber as a protest. (*Interruptions and noise*)

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Get out, then.

(*At this stage Mehta Ranbir Singh withdrew from the Chamber*)

REFERENCES TO LATE SHRI SARAT CHANDRA BOSE AND DR. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, with your permission I wish to make a reference to the death of two eminent leaders of our country, namely, Shri Sarat Chandra Bose and Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha.

In the death of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, India has lost one of her most distinguished sons who had made a name for himself not only as a lawyer but also as a politician. He played an eminent part in India's struggle for freedom. He was a member of the Congress Working Committee for many years and also a member of the Central Legislative Assembly where he was chosen as the Leader of the Congress Assembly Party becoming in 1946 a Member of the Interim Government. Although he had parted company with his old comrades in the Congress and had become one of their severest critics, yet no one can deny the notable service that he rendered to the cause of freedom in this country. His passing away at this most crucial juncture has deprived Bengal of the services of one of her most distinguished sons who could have contributed a great deal towards the restoration of peace and amity among the people of Bengal. The tragedy is, therefore, all the more poignant not only for Bengal but for the whole of India.

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha of Bihar who died last Monday morning belonged to a generation of distinguished Indians who played a notable part in the recent history of India. He has left an indelible mark on the political, social and cultural life of the country. Dr. Sinha held the highest offices that an Indian could aspire for, and was the first elected Deputy President of the Indian Legislative Assembly. He was the first Finance Member of the Government of Bihar and Orissa and was also the President of the Legislative Council. He was twice elected member of the Imperial Legislative Council and in 1933 was specially invited to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Reforms and submitted a lengthy memorandum on the White Paper. Besides his parliamentary and administrative activities, Dr. Sinha was a journalist, educationist, litterateur and above all a humanitarian of the highest order. It would be no exaggeration to say as has been declared by Dr. Rajindra Prasad, our President, that he was the father of modern Bihar. He was the Vice-Chancellor of the

[Chief Minister]

'Patna University for a long time and the Assistant Editor of the 'Leader' and later the founder editor of the "Hindustan Review" since 1899 with a brief interval. The greatest honour came to him in 1946 when he was elected as the first Provisional President of the Indian Constituent Assembly of which he was the senior-most Member. Dr. Sinha combined in himself the rare combination of all that is best in the East and in the West and in his passing away the country has lost one of her most distinguished and brilliant sons.

I am sure that the House will join me in conveying the condolences of this House to the members of the families of both these departed leaders.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members, I associate myself with the observations made by the Leader of the House on the passing away of the two eminent and outstanding personalities of our country. As a homage to those distinguished persons, I would request the hon. Members to rise in their seats and observe silence for two minutes.

(Members rose in their seats and stood in silence for two minutes).

Mr. Speaker : I hope I have the permission of the House to send messages of condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

Hon. Members : Yes. *

RESOLUTIONS

NATIONALIZATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I move—

That this Assembly recommends to the Government to postpone its scheme for the Nationalization of Motor Transport in the State for five years.

* A letter has since been received by the Assembly Department from Shri Radhakrishna Sinha, son of late Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, acknowledging with thanks the message of condolence.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex. Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to postpone its scheme for the nationalization of Motor Transport in the State for five years.

Mr. Speaker, I have given a good deal of thought to the subject of the resolution which I have moved. I have examined it from the point of view of the Government, of the transport operators and also of the public. The Government desires to nationalize transport with a view to balance its Budget. It also desires that the roads should not be damaged. The public look at this problem from the point of view of their convenience. They want to have cheap, punctual and comfortable transport. Operators wish to earn a respectable living as they have been doing up till now. They ask why if they have been carrying on a trade for the past several years, they should not be permitted to continue it. Also when the Constitution guarantees freedom to all citizens of the Union, why should motor-transport-operators be deprived of the freedom to carry on a trade which they took several years to build? In this connection, I wish to quote Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution. It relates to the 'Right of the Freedom' and reads thus—

'All citizens shall have the right—

(g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.'

Under the provisions of this Article, the transport operators demand that they should be at liberty to carry on their business and should not be deprived of it soon after the enforcement of the Constitution. If the Government found any defect in their work, it had the right to demand their removal, but taking over of motor-transport service without any fault on the part of the operators would be an attack on their fundamental rights. It would be noticed that motor transport operators mostly belong to rural areas. They know only three professions, viz., soldiering, peasantry and operating of motor transport. I have noticed that whenever these rural people tried their hands on other professions, they failed miserably. I know of a case where some rural persons started a newspaper. Within three or four months of its commencement, they suffered a loss of about thirty to forty thousand rupees.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are you referring to Chaudhri Kartar Singh's paper. ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Yes, I was referring to his case. In that type of work which involves hard work, it is the rural people who can succeed. Every body must have seen transport operators at work during day and night. Punjabees have been successful in transport business, not only in this State but in other places also. In Calcutta I found that the Punjabees were very successful as motor-transport operators. I enquired from those persons as to what they would do if the Government of that State decided to nationalize their trade. They replied that if the Government did so it would not succeed. I was told that the Government had made an effort in that direction but had come to the conclusion that they could not do so successfully. It is only these hardy transport-operators who could work for eighteen hours a day. In Calcutta, almost all the buses are driven by Punjabee drivers, because it is a very arduous task. If the Government deprives these persons of their work, they will have to take to some other profession. Another task which they are fit for is the use of the sword. The Government cannot absorb all these persons in the armed forces and naturally most of them would create lawlessness. Taking all these things into consideration, I ask the Government not to deprive these persons of a trade in which they have been engaged for the past several years. Most of the transport operators had to sell their lands for purchasing motor-lorries. After making gradual progress they are earning a respectable livelihood now. Bus-service is at present functioning better than even the railways. In the trains there is usually great rush of passengers and sometimes these trains do not arrive and depart punctually. Motor-transport, on the other hand, has become regular as well as punctual. Except in the case of perhaps one or two companies, the public has no complaint against transport service. If the public is assured that by nationalizing motor-transport, the Government would make it cheaper, they might change their views. So far as I know, the Government will not be able to make it cheaper. Their object appears to be to make money.

The first thing which the Government would have to do after nationalization of motor transport, would be to obtain motor-buses. We know the condition of the motor-lorries owned by the

Government. In order to save the tyres of these lorries from being completely damaged, wooden beams have now been placed under them. Private owners are always more careful about their buses than the Government can be with regard to its own.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Why not change such a Government?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : It was changed but we got a worse Government.

After nationalizing motor-transport, the Government will have to do all the work connected with it. It is known to everybody that it is only the private owners who can keep machinery in good order. When drivers are not interested in the carriages driven by them, they will not take proper care of them. The Government buses which are in use at present have already depreciated a great deal. New buses will have to be obtained from foreign countries. Foreign exchange would be required for that purpose. The Government of India as you know, Sir, wishes the minimum amount of dollars to be used. If the transport-operators are permitted to carry on their work, they will be able to use their buses for about five years more. After the Government takes these over, these would become useless within two years and new buses would have to be imported. It has been noticed that whenever the Government takes over a running concern, the efficiency of its working decreases. Government can very well do those things which are meant for the benefit of the public. For example, if a canal has to be dug, this work can be efficiently done by the Government because in that case there is no consideration of the expenditure involved in it. But if the Government takes into its own hands concerns which are feeding thousands of people, it cannot be a wise policy. And then it is just possible that the Government might fail in this venture. It should not therefore take the risk of nationalization unless it is cent per cent sure of its success. In fact, the facts and figures given by the Government are generally misleading and hide real facts.

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

The Government, I think, is tempted to take this business in its own hands for it finds that the transport operators are making profits. Doubtless they earn profits, but the Government lacks the efficiency of the private operators who can put in more hard work even. During the last two years we have noticed that there is scarcity of efficient and honest men in services. It is, as a matter of fact, our ill-luck that we have not produced so far honest administrators. We find that most of the people in services are selfish. I feel, however, that by and by we shall get honest persons into the services who would give priority to their duties over their selfish interest. But at the present moment they are rare. Under these conditions, it is not wise to nationalize the transport. The public at present, is satisfied with the work of the transport operators because they try to please them. They are rightly serving their masters i. e. public and hence they may be allowed to continue their service.

The second cause of this move for nationalization is the fact that the Central Government is trying to eliminate the competition of railways with the motor transport. That is why it is exerting pressure over our Government. But in our State there is no such competition because the railways as well as motor transport are carrying passengers to their full capacity.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. The resolution asks for postponement of nationalization of road transport for 5 years. The mover should address his arguments to that effect but he has been so far saying that nationalization should be abandoned. It means that he is going beyond the scope of the resolution which is on the order paper. He can give reasons why it should be postponed for 5 years. He should not give reasons why nationalization should be abandoned altogether.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : I am saying that the scheme of nationalization should be postponed for 5 years. Perhaps the hon. Member did not listen to me.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : I am listening to your speech most attentively. I have noted down the points.

Mr. Speaker : He can say that the arguments he has advanced apply to postponement.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : What has been said is for abandonment. How can it apply to postponement ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, I was saying that the nationalization of motor transport should be postponed for five years. My first submission was that there are no efficient persons in the administration at the present time, who can take over the work of transport. Secondly we shall be saved from importing new vehicles for the next five years. Thirdly I pointed out that the Central Government is exerting pressure on our Government for nationalizing transport in order to eliminate rail road competition.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. He is talking something about the Central Government. He is saying that Centre is doing this and that. He must be definite about what he says or he should not make such statements.

Mr. Speaker : He means that it may be possible.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : So I was saying, Sir, that in Punjab there is no dearth of passengers both for railways and the motor transport. Both are carrying passengers to their full capacity. This difficulty can arise only if the train service is expanded and in that case remedies can be found. But at present there is no such difficulty.

The transport operators now engaged in the business are mostly agriculturists and ex-military men who invested money in it after selling their lands. These people will be ruined in case their business is taken by the Government. The compensation that the Government proposes to give them, will not be adequate, nor would they be able to start any other business. In fact, it is the policy of every good Government to put as little burden on the land as possible. In Punjab the land holdings are very limited; the average holding here is only 2½ acres. It is not possible for these people to eke out their living from such small holdings. If they have found an avenue for themselves against the wishes of the Government, it should as a matter of fact welcome it. What is required is to absorb surplus agriculturist population in industry and not to increase the pressure on land.

Again some people think that in view of the coming elections this business should remain non-political in nature so that it may be able to provide equal facilities to all parties. If after five years it is found that the pressure on agriculture has decreased and the land holdings have become economic and the surplus agriculturist

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

population has been absorbed in industry, the Government can consider this matter of nationalization. Moreover by that time we would have known the result of experiments that are now being conducted by other Governments. We should wait and see lest we should fail along with others. I am sure we shall be able to arrive at a definite decision on the basis of others people's experience, after five years. This Resolution, therefore, is most apt from the points of view of the Government, public and transport operators. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Resolution moved—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to postpone its scheme for the Nationalization of Motor Transport in the State for 5 years.

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I stand in support of the Resolution moved by Sardar Dalip Singh Kang. I feel that at present the means of Road Transport in the State of Punjab are better and more comfortable than those in any other State. No other State can compete us in this matter. This is all due to the indefatigable efforts and hardwork of those whom our present Government now wishes to deprive of their livelihood by means of the proposed scheme of nationalization. In my opinion this is quite unfair and hard to them. We should recall to mind those difficult times when after the First Great War the poor and brave soldiers who had borne great risks to their lives in the battle fields all over the world were discharged. The Government of that time could not provide any means of livelihood to all of them. They had to provide it themselves. With exceptional courage and patience they laboured through this business. The little experience of driving they got during war, they utilized in their new trade. These poor people, some of them by selling their little shops and cottages and others by mortgaging their lands, managed somehow or other to buy lorries in order to make a living for their families. I remember in those early days it was very difficult to find a lorry for going to Lahore from Amritsar. On the way if any defect in the engine occurred, the operator would try his level best to remove it even at a great personal discomfort and carry the passengers to their destination. The condition of the roads then was not what we find it now-a-days. Now we cannot even imagine the condition of the

roads of those days. Under those difficult circumstances the operators did a yeoman's work and served the State faithfully. I have mentioned these facts in order that the hon. Members might feel that the present palatial structure of transport in Punjab was, in fact, built upon the hard work and laborious toils of the operators in those early days when there were no good roads. I think this fact should not be lost sight of, that the present good management of the Transport Companies in Punjab is the result of the initiative and courage of the individual operators who made a beginning in this direction in those difficult days when they had to sell their properties for this purpose. We should appreciate the endeavours of these individuals who fought against odds. If we bring to our minds the picture of those days when there were no 'Adas', the efforts made and the amounts spent by these persons to give a shape to them are worth admiring. We will have to admit that at that stage of motor transport the part played by the operators was remarkable. In spite of Rail Road competition they went on with the improvements needed for the comfort of the passengers. What I wish to submit is that in spite of difficulties they continued serving the people in those days when the State could not enter upon this enterprise. They undertook risks. They passed through difficult times. But still they continued their service to the Province and the people unflinchingly. I think we should also call to mind the services they rendered to the Province in the dark days of 1947 when lakhs of our kith and kin were stranded in West Punjab. At great personal risk the motor operators did a fine job. They rendered an invaluable service to humanity by bringing those unfortunate victims of human frenzy to East Punjab. We will, indeed, be very ungrateful and thankless persons if we try to fill our treasury at the expense of such people. I would request the Government to be sympathetic to them. Sir, my submission is that those who wish to nationalize Motor Transport in Punjab fail to admire the services rendered by this section of our society. As a matter of fact, those who have rendered a unique service in the sphere of evacuation after partition and who have built up this trade after a good deal of hardship and suffering and who, indeed, have put their life blood in it for the sake of service to the people at large, deserve to be praised and rewarded for their steadfastness and courage.

[Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail]

Another important point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House through you, Sir, is that in other States of India the Punjabees are mainly engaged in the work of Motor Transport. If we nationalize motor transport here it will mean an encouragement to other States to follow suit. Thus the Punjabees there will be hard hit. I may point out that in Bengal alone no less than fifty thousand Punjabi families entirely depend upon the motor transport industry. I would sound a note of warning to the Government that if transport is nationalised in the Punjab, it will have serious repercussion in other States of India wherein Punjabi operators are plying their trade profitably. As a result of the nationalization policy of the Government of the Punjab, other States will naturally be disposed to adopt it to the great detriment of the Punjabi operators who will be thrown out of employment. Thus they would virtually be reduced to the position of refugees and we would be inviting these ruined people to come back to their native State with the result that our already shattered economy will deteriorate still further. I have given only the figures of Bengal and I believe that an equally large number of Punjabi operators are working in other States. I submit even at the risk of repetition that nationalization of motor transport here is bound to adversely affect the Punjabi operator who is known as an adventurer and a pioneer in this industry in other States of India. He sold all his property and under great risks invested his money in the motor transport and after putting in hard work built up this trade here and outside this State. It, therefore, ill-behoves a popular Government like the one we have now to deprive these operators of the fruits of their labour. I do not think that any democratic Government would ever take any step which will be instrumental in bringing about unemployment in the country. I would request the Government that before undertaking nationalization of motor transport it should try to understand the difficulties and hardships to which the operators would be put. I think that my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh has not asked for the moon from the Government while demanding the postponement of nationalization of motor transport in the State, for five years. I feel it would have been in the fitness of things if the Punjab Government had followed in the footsteps of Central Government in this matter. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that some time ago the Government of India announced its decision

not to nationalize big industries for 10 years. If on similar lines, the Punjab Government too had made an announcement that for ten years the motor transport in the State would not be nationalised, they would have earned the goodwill and gratitude of the people. Since the resolution demands postponement of nationalization of motor transport for five years only, I have no way left but to support it.

I have no mind to take much time of the House. I would, however, impress upon the hon. House the desirability of giving a fair deal to the operators. I think we should feel proud of their achievement in which people of no other State can excel them. Besides, we should not be oblivious of the services they have rendered at great personal risk during the fateful days of evacuation of refugees from Pakistan. If we cannot remain ever grateful to them for these services, by altogether abandoning the scheme of nationalization of motor transport, we should at least give them some respite by removing the sword of Democles hanging over their heads. They are in perpetual fear of their trade being taken over by the Government. We should tell them that at least for five years the motor transport industry will not be nationalized, and that they could continue undisturbed, but they must make improvements in this industry. With these words I support the resolution under discussion.

(Mr. Speaker called upon Shri Kedar Nath Saigal to speak.)

Shri Virendra: On a point of order, Sir. I think it would be better if all the amendments to this resolution are moved so that hon. Members could discuss them along with the resolution.

Mr. Speaker : There is one amendment in the name of Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha, but he has not stood up to move it.

Shri Virendra: There is one amendment by Shri Dev Raj Sethi. It should also be moved.

Mr. Speaker : Since I have called upon the hon. member Shri Kedar Nath Saigal to speak, the amendments will be moved after he has finished.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*)
Sir, the intention of the Government is to nationalize the motor transport industry and the resolution under consideration seeks its postponement for five years. I am of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by launching this scheme without first

[Shri Kedar Nath Siagal]

ascertaining the income or having the exact idea of the revenue that would accrue to the Government from this venture. I fully realize that not only this but also other major industries should also be nationalized. But before embarking on this scheme indiscriminately, we must take into consideration the pros and cons of the matter. Government should see that before undertaking to nationalize one particular industry, whether there are any other equally important industries, the nationalization of which can safely be proceeded with. (*Hear, hear*) For instance we have sugar industry and textile industry. Why should not these have precedence in the scheme of nationalization of industries? (*Hear, hear*). The owners of sugar factories and textile mills have amassed wealth amounting to crores of rupees by indulging in blackmarketing of these two commodities. If Government nationalizes these industries first, it can earn huge profits. It would be doing great service to the Punjab because on the one hand it would be eradicating black market and on the other it would be making these commodities available to the public at convenient rates. Besides, enhanced revenues resulting from nationalization of these industries could be utilized for the betterment of the public. I see no reason why the poor operators who have built up this industry with the sweat of their brow and by selling their property and investing the proceeds in it, should be deprived of their livelihood. They work from dawn to dusk and *vice versa* and yet we are not sure whether these people are able to earn sufficiently to keep body and soul together. In this connection I may point out that the Transport Minister in the previous Ministry issued licences of lorries in such large numbers that the value of trucks worth 10 thousand rupees sometime ago, had considerably depreciated. As a matter of fact these operators are running their business at a loss. So whenever I find that the Government wants to nationalize the motor transport industry, I feel that it is taking a step in the wrong direction. Now the Government wants to take over it because it expects large profits. But I fail to see how it would achieve its object unless it enhances the fare from five pies to seven pies per mile. The Railway Administration is literally looting the travelling public by charging heavy fares. I am reminded of how the motor transport industry brought the railways to their knees. Some years ago when we were at Lahore, I remember that the railway fare from Amritsar to Lahore used to be 12 annas. The

motor lorries competed with the railway and brought the fare to the paltry sum of annas four. As a result of this competition, the Railway authorities were compelled to reduce their fare by fifty per cent. What I want to drive at is that Government should allow this competition to continue. It is in the interest of the public. Now nationalization of transport is sought with a view to benefiting the people; but if the people whom we want to serve are adversely affected, then what useful purpose would be served by taking this step? Then, Sir, so far as my knowledge goes, the number of lorries at present plying in the State is about 1,200. There are about 5,000 share holders of all the Transport Companies in the State. Besides, there are 1,500 drivers, 1,500 cleaners, 300 clerks, 100 mistries and about 400 menials. It is clear from this that about 9800 souls are earning their livelihood from this private business. If we add the number of family members of this establishment we will find that about 50,000 people would be deprived of their bread if motor transport is nationalized. If the operators are deprived of their business, they will be reduced to poverty and misery. It will not be out of place to mention here that these operators have not yet liquidated their debts which were incurred by them for purchasing lorries and motor cars. Under the circumstances they will suffer a great loss if the Government nationalizes motor transport without giving them any notice about its intention to do so.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.: On a point of Order, Sir. Is it desirable that the whole of the Treasury Bench should be empty when discussion on a Resolution is going on?

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Ministers must be present in the House when discussion is taking place. Their absence reflects on the House as a whole.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : I wish to submit that if it is the intention of the Government to nationalize transport to-day without giving any thought to its consequences, I am sure, it would be responsible for starving about 50,000 souls. By taking such hasty steps Government would be doing a grave injustice to the operators and members of their establishments, who will be reduced to poverty and misery. Besides this, if motor transport is nationalized, Government instead of absorbing the staff of the operators, would make

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fresh' appointments from amongst qualified and trained persons. It is an open secret that the poor clerks in the offices of the transport companies who are doing their job well are not qualified. Similar is the case with drivers and mistries who though very efficient and experienced are not qualified. All these poor people who have not received any education in any school or college and have also not received any training in any engineering institution will be deprived of their livelihood for no fault of theirs. These poor people would be reduced to poverty and misery if satisfactory arrangements for their rehabilitation are not made if and when motor transport is going to be nationalized. It will not be out of place to mention here that people are already dissatisfied with the Government. If my hon. Friends were to travel by rail or road through any corner of the State, they will hear people of all shades of opinion cursing the present Government for its misdeeds. They say that the present Government has failed to improve the hard lot of the poor. I for one am of the opinion that Government would be committing the greatest blunder by depriving about 50,000 people of their livelihood. If motor transport is nationalized without due notice to the operators, I am sure this hasty step on the part of the Government will land it into trouble. In my opinion the mover of the motion now before the House is quite justified in asking for its postponement for a period of 5 years. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to postpone this scheme for at least 5 years. If this is done, I am sure the operators and others who are affected by it and who have agreed that by delaying this scheme they would be in a position to make some other arrangements, would not feel the pinch. If it is really the intention of the Government to make money then there are other ways open to it. For instance there are many industries which can be nationalized and the profits of which can be added to the State Exchequer. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, I move—

- (i) That in line 3 for the figure '5' the figure '3' be substituted.
- (ii) At the end the following words be added :—
"subject to the condition that the Government may take up such routes as it deems essential as an experimental measure."

Sir, this question of nationalization of motor transport has been actively on the *tapis* for the last 5 years. On the one hand we find we have been having a chronic deficit in our State and the present income is insufficient to carry on the administration. It is for increasing the revenue of the State that the motor transport is proposed to be nationalized, which it is expected would be instrumental in adding more and more to the State exchequer. In this way adequate sums would be spent on opening schools, hospitals and roads. But it is argued that the transport operators who have invested their hard-earned money on this business are rendering a yeoman's service to the public. I am really constrained to remark that we would be doing grave injustice to these operators who are at present earning the fruits of their hard labour and their investment if this precious treasure is confiscated from them. If my amendments are accepted I am sure both the objects would be achieved. According to the Resolution it is intended to postpone the scheme of nationalization in the State for 5 years. This matter has already been under the active consideration of the Government for the last 2 years and if in addition to these 2 years this scheme of nationalization is postponed for a period of 3 years more, then it is crystal clear that the operators would be having 5 years in all at their disposal. Then an objection can be raised that the officials who will undertake this work on behalf of the Government would not take any pains because of having no interest of their own in it, as the magic of ownership turns sand into gold. There is no doubt about it that a private concern can run successfully because the owner works wholeheartedly and also because he is always cautious and careful to effect economy and if the same concern were run by the Government, the official in charge will not take such pains for running it successfully nor will he care to effect economy for making any possible saving. It is for these reasons that I have moved my amendments so that Government may get time to attain some experience in this line. At the same time there seems to be no justification in this argument that the nationalization of motor transport would result in a heavy loss to the Government. The past experience shows that in Amritsar and Jullundur the Omnibus Service has earned much profit beyond expectations. I have got with me the figures about the Omnibus Service. I have been informed that a sum of Rs. 9,00,000 was invested on this enterprise

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

by the Government. After deducting the running expenditure, depreciation charges and other sundry charges, there has been a net profit of Rs. 3,00,000. This experience of operating local bus services cannot make the Government fit for operating bus services on long routes. The rates of local services cannot be enforced on long routes. If my amendment is accepted, it will cover all points of view. As an experimental measure, the Government may for the present take over some routes, so that minimum hardship is carried to the operators and some experience is gained by the Government itself. If the experiment of Government operated motor transport proves a success, there will be a case and justification for extending it. On the other hand if experience shows that Government cannot carry on this undertaking efficiently, and profitably, it may well be decided to give up this idea of nationalization of transport altogether.

It is gratifying to note that happily the relations between the Government and the operators are quite cordial, and negotiations are being carried on in a spirit of accommodation and mutual understanding, and the Government is not anxious to add to the revenues of the Province by sacrificing the interests of the present operators. Fortunately, the President of the Motor Operators Union is no less a person than our Chief Parliamentary Secretary whom the Cabinet can freely consult in deciding this issue. He can certainly be of great help in finding a solution of this problem, a solution which will serve the immediate object of the Government viz., that of increasing its revenues and retaining the advantages of private ownership as well, no matter whether this is done by giving the Government a share in the gross booking or by levying a tax of three or four annas per bus per mile or a tax of one or two pies per mile on passengers' traffic. In this way, Sir, the Government will be able to increase its revenues and the interests of the private operators will also be safeguarded and this controversy of nationalization *versus* private ownership will come to an end. Only if Sardar Dalip Singh Kang accepts my amendment.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not a question of acceptance by the mover. It is a question of acceptance by the House.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, what I mean to emphasise is that this period of three years will help the Government to find out its true

position so far as its ability to take over motor transport is concerned and frame correct policy in the light of the experience gained.

Mr. Speaker : Resolution under Consideration, Amendment moved—

- (i) That in line 3 for the figure '5' the figure '3' be substituted.
- (ii) At the end the following words be added :—
"subject to the condition that the Government may take up such routes as it deems essential as an experimental measure."

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundar General, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I have not much to say on the resolution under discussion. Everybody is aware of the services rendered by motor transport operators. Nobody can do without them. They are very much wanted in election days. They helped in the evacuation of people in 1947. Their services in 1942 movement were great. If they had agreed to the proposal embodied in this resolution earlier, two years would have elapsed by this time, and a year would be left. I had told my friends in the very beginning that this Assembly would not decide this question of nationalization.

Sir, I have risen to oppose the amendment brought by Shri Dev Raj Sethi, as the suggestion made therein appears to me to be full of dangerous potentialities. I warn the operators and the drivers that it is full of potential mischief and will do them harm instead of good. People living in plains will not be affected but hill operators and the denizens of hills will be in for trouble. So far as the question of postponement of the scheme of nationalization is concerned, I see no harm. But the amendment of Shri Sethi would give powers to the Government of taking over whatever routes it may like to. I am afraid the hill operators will be the first to be affected. Pathankot-Kangra and Kulu routes will be taken over depriving the present operators of their means of livelihood. I would, therefore, urge the Government to amalgamate all the motor transport companies into one firm, before taking over any routes as an experimental measure. Otherwise any action taken in this connection would appear unfair and discriminatory. If my suggestion is acted upon, justice will be done to the operators of the routes which are taken over by the Government and the loss will be equally shared by all the transport operators of the province. If this is not done, what will the displaced operators do? Will they not worsen the unemployment problem of the province? Amalgamation must, therefore, precede any efforts by the Government to take over any

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha] : route my fears that discrimination and favouritism will be employed in the selection of routes for operating Government services are well-founded. Those who would have no influence with the Ministers will be the first victims. The poorer section of the operators will be deprived of their only source of livelihood. It is for this reason that I strongly advocate the amalgamation of all existing companies, so that the loss may be equally shared by all; otherwise I know the operators will go about flattering the President of Motor Transport Union to save them from extinction.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. Under Rule 87 (2) a member of this House was named a short while ago but he is again in his seat.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** He was asked to withdraw from the Chamber for 15 minutes.

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, a resolution has been moved in the House that the scheme of the nationalization of motor transport in the State may be postponed for five years. This resolution is sought to be amended and the amendment suggested is that it should be postponed for a period of three years. I have stood to support this resolution. The nationalization of motor transport is a very important matter. The Congress is also committed to the policy of nationalizing large industries and other business concerns. In fact I would like that all sources of production should be nationalized. But I would say that the way in which the nationalization of motor transport is proposed to be done is very objectionable.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

The scheme for nationalization of motor transport was sought to be introduced in the year 1946 and it underwent changes almost every year. At first it was the intention of the Government to take up such routes where the transport services indulged in competition with the Railway. Then it was decided to choose such routes where the public was greatly dissatisfied with the service of private motor transport companies. Then it was considered to leave out such routes from the operation of this scheme where refugees companies were operating and the State territories were involved. Now the stage has

come when the Government has decided to nationalize all transport services in the province. This shows that the scheme has been changing from time to time with the change of ministry and it is also obvious that there are selfish motives underlying it. Now the Scheme is strongly opposed by the people and pressure is being exerted upon the Government to keep it in abeyance as has been done by the Central Government. The Government of India has now appointed a Statutory Planning Commission assisted by board of experts which will make full assessment of the requirements of the nation. The nationalization of industries will have now to wait till their decision. Our Government has now chosen to take up Pathankot and Kalka groups for this innovation. As remarked by my hon. Friend Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail, most of the operators are ex-soldiers. These people were given road permits by the Government and they built motor buses with great financial strain and put them on the road. Many of them were cleaners who became drivers in course of time and then became the shareholders of motor transport companies. It must be realised that after the nationalization of motor transport these people will be deprived of their very existence and will find it extremely difficult to attempt to build up any fresh business with no funds. All the present operators are not capitalists. With the exception of very few all the operators solely depend for their livelihood on the income that accrues from this business. It has not been made clear by the Government that suitable compensation would be paid to them for their motor parts, furniture and other accessories, when they are relieved of their business concerns. I understand that the Government does not propose to accept their furniture which is not good. It is strange that the officers of the Government should have 'squander mania' when real economies in expenditure are required in the Province. I may impress upon the Government that if the owners and operators are not properly remunerated for their assets, they will suffer heavy losses. The Government has not even decided if 'good will' money will also be paid to such persons who will be affected by this change over. Nothing has been settled about the compensation for vehicles. A bargaining has been started. At times one thousand rupees are offered for a vehicle and if no agreement is possible this amount is raised. This dirty bargaining does not become at any rate a Government. I would ask the Government not to play with the sentiments of the people.

My hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi has remarked that Govern-

[Thakur Dalip Singh]

ment may be allowed to make an experiment of this trade. May I ask whether the Government has not had enough experience of it by running omnibuses at various places? What benefit has the public derived from this experiment? The Government has not been able to carry on this trade properly. The Government vehicles are always overloaded but no action is taken against them. Action is only taken if and when such an offence is committed by the transporters. My hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi had also been pleased to say that fares might be increased. I fail to see the sagacity of any such step. Fares were not raised during days when the transport requirements were not altogether available or when the prices of spare parts etc. had shot up by more than 50%. But unfortunately the fares were enhanced when the normal days returned. There was an increase from 7 to 9, 9 to 12 or 12 to 15, perhaps to give a bad name to the transporters. (Some hon. Members. That gave transports more money.) They never made more money. They always charged less than the enhanced rates. They charged 5 for 7, 7 for 9 and 9 for 12.

There is one very important fact which I would like to mention. The scheme does not envisage the absorption of servants of the transporters who have been in their service for the last 20 or 30 years and may be in some cases from generation to generation. If this scheme is put through as it stands it will cause great hardship in their case. In my opinion this single reason is good enough to condemn the scheme.

Sir, I do not think it is incorrect to say that whatever trade has been taken over by Government, it has not been able to do well. Take the case of Railway Department. My experience tells me that many times it is not possible even to get a seat reserved without giving a tip. Bribery and corruption are rampant in that Department. May be that the Ministers and their officers are tempted to enforce the scheme to provide and favour their own men by throwing about forty thousand people out of employment. (Shri Bhagat Ram Choda: About one lakh of people). What is more they may be able to extort some money from the Tyre and Oil Companies. These are some of the salient facts which I wished to place before the House regarding the scheme and in view of which the schemes should be deferred for at least 5 years. During this period the Government will be able to properly evolve the scheme and the transporters will get time to plan their future careers. To give them permits of three or four months at

a time is certainly of no help for them. They should get at least five or six years and after that Government should see whether the work should be taken out of their hands. With these words I resume my seat.

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division, Multan General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the problem which is now before the House is not so complicated and intricate as it has been made or is being made. So far as nationalization of industries is concerned, I dare say not a single Member in this House would be opposed to it. It has ever been the policy of the Congress and in almost every election manifesto which it has issued it has given out that it would nationalize industries if and when it comes into power. I am aware that the scheme of nationalization of transport has met with a measure of success in other States and I would certainly be pleased if such a thing were also possible here in the Punjab. I am in favour of the principle of nationalization. But the House may be surprised to find that in spite of it I have stood up to oppose nationalization in this particular case and support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi. I have reasons for this. Despite the respect that I have for the hon. Ministers and the Ministry, I am of the opinion that the present Government is not fit for coping with the work of nationalization. As to why it is not fit for this job, I would adduce my arguments. First of all I wish to know whether we have the requisite resources for the work which we are to take in hand. Sir, I think we haven't. For embarking on the work of nationalizing an industry the most essential requirement is money, and we haven't got it. I think I shall not be revealing a secret when I say that our Government set up a regular department for enquiring into the advisability of nationalizing the transport industry. This department prepared a memorandum which said that if nationalization of transport was to take place it would involve a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 50,53,000 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 73,37,000 a year. This means that at the very outset we will be called upon to spend about one and a quarter crores of rupees. After spending one crore or one and a quarter crores of

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rupees, the Government will get a revenue of twenty lakhs only. This amount of expenditure will have to be incurred at the time of commencement of nationalization. *In addition, compensation will also have to be paid. If this amount is also included, the total initial expenditure will exceed even one and a half crores of rupees. Where shall the Government get all this money from? The resources of our State are so meagre that it will be very difficult to meet all this expenditure.

Another difficulty which I feel is that we have not got any able officer in this State, who may do this task. Nationalization of motor transport is not a very easy job. Very efficient and experienced officers will be needed to do this work on which we are going to spend crores of rupees. This question was discussed in the Indian Parliament only a short time back. Expressing his views on this matter, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister said that for want of suitable officers, the Government was unable to undertake nationalization. When the Central Government has not got such officers who may do this job, how can the Punjab Government do it? About the officers of our State, the less said the better. This is the second difficulty which I wished to point out.

The third point which I wish to submit is that our Government is befooling the public with regard to nationalization of motor transport. Why does tell the public that it is in favour of the policy of nationalization, when in reality it does not intend to enforce it? I say so, because I know that barring the hon. Chief Minister or two or three other hon. Ministers, the rest are opposed to it. About the hon. Minister for Transport, I can say definitely that he is opposed to nationalization of motor transport. When this is the actual position, is it not befooling the public to say that the Government favours nationalization? Another interesting thing which I notice these days is that even communists are opposing nationalization of motor transport. When this is the state of affairs, how can this work be done successfully? I am in favour of the principle of nationalization but I am opposing it in the prevailing circumstances, for another reason also. I fear that at the time of nationalization, sectional and

communal considerations will not be ignored. I agree with my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha and Thakur Dalip Singh that these considerations prevail at the time of selection of routes. (Some hon. Members : No.) They say that it is not true. Is it not a fact that when the Government asked the Transport Department to select some routes for starting nationalisation of transport, they selected only Kalka and Pathankot roads, where the Government was sure to meet failure? This is done in order that the Government may declare failure of its experiment and may therefore justify its giving up the entire scheme.

Minister for Land Revenue : Transport Services on these routes are owned by Sikhs.

Shri Virendra : If an assurance could be given that communal and sectional interest would not be kept in view at the time of selection of routes, none would object to immediate nationalization. If, however, some routes are selected and the others are left as such, on the basis of certain considerations, it would be highly objectionable. In this manner, nationalization cannot succeed. If a work cannot be done successfully, what is the use of undertaking it?

If you wish to form an idea of the ability of Government officers, who will have to do this work, have a look at the Government owned motor buses lying at Jullundur. Buses worth lakhs of rupees have remained unprotected for the last two and a half years. Had the officers of some other Government acted in this manner, it would have ordered their public indictment. What useful work can we expect from such Government officers? There must be some guarantee that the officers who will have to spend about one and a half crores of rupees at the very commencement of nationalization are fit for this job. The way in which they have acted so far, does not give assurance of this fact. It is for this reason also that in spite of my belief in the principle of nationalization, I oppose it at present. When the Government has neither money nor officers, it would be better not to embark on a scheme in which it is sure to fail. For these reasons I support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi that

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the nationalization of motor transport be postponed for three years but one or two routes be taken over by the Government as an experimental measure. If after making this experiment the Government feels sure that it can successfully work the entire scheme, I shall support the Government in its effort. I shall, however, request the Government that at the time of selection of routes it should not favour influential persons and make a choice which may do harm to only poor persons. If the Government acts on some principle, it will meet with success and the whole House will support it in its work.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, before I place my views on the Resolution before this hon. House, I wish to express my gratitude to those hon. Members who have supported it and have strengthened the demand of the motor operators for the postponement of nationalization of transport. The House is aware that it was in 1938-39 that these transport operators purchased motor lorries after selling the 'jewellery' of their wives and mortgaging their land. In the beginning these people suffered losses on account of competition among themselves. Later on the Government of India appointed an officer for the purpose of reporting on the business of transport. That officer prepared a report after touring the whole of India and it was on the basis of that report that the Motor Transport Act was passed. This Act provided for routes for various transport services. The allotment of routes had just been done when war broke out. As a result of that the Government requisitioned most of the good vehicles and the rest had to face an acute shortage of petrol; simultaneously petrol was rationed and it continues to be like that up-till now. Faced with this difficulty, the transport operators continued their business somehow or other during the war. The procurement of spare motor parts was another difficulty for them, because, in those days, imports were almost stopped. After the war we had another misfortune in the shape of partition of the country. During those days of distresses, the transport operators not only gave their lorries for the purpose of evacuation of our brethren from the West Punjab, but they themselves went with them and helped in bringing our people to this side. The hon. Minister in charge must be aware that the Government even now owes money to these operators for the service they rendered in those days. I may point out here that the Government promised to pay Rs. 30 a day for

every vehicle while it actually paid at the rate of Rs. 10 or 15 a day afterwards. Even then these operators did not grumble. I would also like to mention here that the operators who went to the West Punjab for evacuating our people, included our brave Sikh brethren who knew that they were exposing their lives to the bullets of the Baloch soldiers. In spite of that, these brave people went to the villages of the West Punjab and evacuated our brothers and sisters.

Our Government so far had been anxious to nationalise this business of transport. A short while ago I agreed to become the President of the Association of these ruined people. I did so because I knew that our hon. Ministers were ignorant of the difficulties of these people. As soon as they come to occupy these offices, they think of winning popularity by nationalizing the motor transport. I honestly think that it will not be a successful proposition if it is done in the way it is sought to be done by the Government. I have seen the directors of the transport companies themselves distributing tickets to the passengers and checking the buses to see that no driver or conductor misbehaves. On the other hand if this business is nationalized, the drivers would not work for more than eight hours a day and if at all they do, they would demand bonus, apart from their salaries of Rs. 80 per mensem. The House is aware that the Omnibus Service run by the Government is not showing any profits, although the vehicles are new and for the next two years they would not require any repairs. The hon. Minister has remarked that it is not correct. But I would request him to visit the office of the Bus Service at Amritsar where a table shows its income. In Jullundur, no doubt, some profits have been shown, but that was due to the movement of displaced persons from one place to the other. After two years, when the vehicles get old and would require repairs, the Government would see that its mechanics are selling the parts in the market through underhand sources inflicting double losses on the Government.

Sir, I would also like to cite instances of other Provincial Governments in support of this Resolution. The Bengal Government has failed in this venture, because the Bengalis who cannot work for more than two hours a day could not have competed with the brave Punjabis who work for as many as fourteen hours a day. Similarly the Orissa Government has failed. As

[Chaudhri Kartar Singh]

regards the Madras Government, it has failed miserably. This fact was admitted by the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee at the conference held at Rupar. I have no hesitation in saying that the Government would be able to run this business after three years, if it can produce efficient officer for this purpose during this period. Even for partial nationalization, the Government would be committing a mistake if it does not make use of the present transport operators by giving them shares. The gravity of the situation in our State, I think, is evident to the House. The most urgent problem at this time, is the rehabilitation of the refugees. If the money that is proposed to be spent on the nationalization of transport is spent for the completion of Bhakra and Nangal Projects, the Government would be taking a step in the direction of removing food shortage and the zamindars would also bless it. Sir, I say this with a full sense of responsibility. One of my hon. Friends has remarked that even the chief whip of the party is against nationalization. I have sound reasons to be against it. If the Government decides to postpone it for three years it will be to its own advantage. Besides, most of the operators are displaced persons and only some of them belong to East Punjab. These persons who are at present in a state of suspense, if sympathetically treated, can be an asset to the Government. They will prove a potent weapon for counter acting the nefarious propaganda against the Government in the rural areas which is being carried on at present by various interested persons. Those who indulge in abusing the Government in the rural areas will find it difficult to do so if the operators are won over to the side of the Government by a policy of postponing the scheme of nationalization for at least three years. Moreover the amount that is proposed to be spent initially on this scheme may be utilized in a better way. For instance the same amount may be spent on Bhakra and Nangal projects on whose early completion depends the prosperity of this Province.

Moreover it is generally held that the services cannot take charge of transport and run it in an efficient manner. Without any experience in the line it is unwise to take control of this public utility services. The Government will find it difficult to discharge such functions efficiently. Even in administration, it is said, the services are not functioning as they ought to.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** These are general remarks about services.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, my submission is that Government should permit the operators to run the lines for at least three years. No line should be taken for the present. Moreover before doing anything in the matter the Government should first decide what compensation should be paid. The broad principles of compensation ought to be decided upon before any steps in the matter are taken. This will be a just and wise policy. This will save the operators unnecessary litigation and needless worries that going to the law courts entail. I would request the Government to be quite fair and reasonable in this matter.

Here, Sir, I wish to remark that the operators are very fortunate in one respect. At present Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, than whom the operators cannot have a better friend and well wisher, is at the helm of affairs. Any other Government might have been more strict and unsympathetic to their demands. Still I would urge upon the Government that before any steps against any line are taken the decision with regard to compensation should be taken first. The amount of compensation should be based upon the principles of justice and fairplay and due regards should be given to the facts that firstly, this is a Refugee Province and secondly, it is a border Province. Moreover, most of the persons engaged in Motor Transport, at present, belong to the rural areas. I expect that our Government will leave no stone unturned to please those people because it is upon the rural population that the progress and security of this State depends. So I hope that the Chief Minister will postpone this scheme for at least three years and will decide the principles of compensation before taking any action with regard to any line. With these words I support the Resolution.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the question of nationalizing the Motor Transport has been under consideration for sometime. Today a Resolution has been moved in the House to the effect that the idea of nationalizing Transport be postponed for five years. An amendment suggesting postponement for three years has been moved. It has also been suggested that in the meanwhile some routes may be taken as an experimental measure and the question whether the Government stands to lose or gain be studied there. I have my own amendment which I need not move because I

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

think and wish that the Resolution will be withdrawn. Any how various speeches have been made on this Resolution. The trend of some of the speeches delivered in this House was such that while the words went one way the result went quite the other. In certain quarters it has been said that although the principle of nationalization was acceptable, it has not attained any measure of success at so many places where it was tried. So the conclusion is that it should not be tried here. But I wish to be quite clear in this matter. Ours is a deficit province and so we should find out all possible sources of income. This can only be achieved if we are prepared to incur, if need be, the displeasure of any section of the people. Those upon whom we will lay our hands in this connection will naturally resent it. As sincere Members of this House, however, we should strongly suppress any weakness that we might feel in giving expression to our points of view in such matters. I wish to make it quite clear that the question of increasing the revenues of the State should be foremost in our minds. We should look to the betterment of the State. But this is not possible without making available adequate funds for the purpose. No one should be merely sentimental. Of course, the operators have borne hardships and our thanks are due to them for the help they rendered during partition days. But for the higher interests of the country and of its people smaller interests should be sacrificed. Well, Sir, I have had a frank talk with the 5 P. M. operators on this subject. They too admit to a reasonable extent Indented and fully realise the fact that political currents and cross currents moving with terrific force in the present world, cannot stop the coming of nationalization of industries. What to talk of motor transport industry, every other major industry would also be nationalized. I am of the opinion that there is no Government or a political party which is so powerful as to put off the demands of the times or suppress the strong desire of the public for nationalization of major industries, the profits of which go into the pockets of the few. But what do I find here? The Government is vacillating to take firm action in the matter. I may tell the hon. Members that the time is not far off when we will have to nationalize many more industries, let alone the motor transport. If you ignore this warning, China's example is writ large on the wall. The people, the Government, the industrialists and capitalists all thought differently, but all of them were swept away before the avalanche of the new political creed which

thought in terms of nationalization of everything by the State. So I repeat my warning that motor transport will have to be nationalized. If any Government refuses to do so, it is bound to fail sooner or later. The hon. Members should remember that the Central Government is not going to grant any subsidy for ever to us to meet our deficits. We will have to tap this avenue for increasing our revenues.

I admit that there are certain difficulties which must be overcome so that the operators may not be put to undue hardship and that their interests are in no way sacrificed in a light hearted manner. But I must say with all candidness that the interests of the State and no less the interests of the common man without any distinction, are more dear to us than the interests of one particular class. (*Hear, hear*). Therefore, howsoever, sympathetic we feel for the operator, we cannot ignore the larger interests of the State. I therefore, appeal to the Government not to postpone nationalization of transport for a long time. One day or the other they will have to take this step. They cannot escape the displeasure of that particular class which is affected, even if they postpone the scheme for a number of years. They would be betraying their weakness if they submit to the demand of postponement of nationalization of motor transport. There is an allied question of increase in abiana. Government knows that this source is to yield lakhs of rupees as revenue, but it is afraid to talk about this matter in the rural areas. I am one of those who are not afraid of talking about this matter with the zamindars. I discuss with them and try to convince them of the desirability of enhancing the water rates in view of the high prices of foodgrains obtaining in the market.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member could refer to the matter when it comes before the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Very well, Sir. The difficulty is that the Government is afraid of saying things to the people which are in the larger interests of the State but are unpalatable to the class concerned. Government should plainly tell them where the interests of the State lay. I therefore reiterate that transport has to be nationalized.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Nationalization should be started from the top.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : There is no question of top and bottom. When we are determined to do one thing, we must do it. No half-hearted measure would help us. In this connection I am reminded of the boycott days of foreign cloth. When the volunteers would stand before a particular shop dealing in foreign cloth, the shopkeeper would ask the volunteers to picket the shop at the end of the bazar. If the volunteers would shift to that shop, the owner would request them to first picket the shop in the middle. Thus the volunteers would be in a fix where to start and where not to start. But when the volunteers acted firmly, the result is well-known, success attended their action. Now my hon. Friend says that nationalization should start from the top. May I know to which industries he is alluding to? Is not transport a major industry in this State? If we do not nationalize our own industries, then are we to nationalize the industries of the States of Bombay or Madras? (*Laughter*). So if we want to increase our revenue, we must nationalize the motor transport.

It is argued that the operators have put in a lot of labour, money and skill in making this industry a success. But this does not mean that if the Government takes it over, it will fail to run it successfully and profitably. If this were true, then I think they are not fit to run the administration even. (*Lowd laughter*). I therefore, submit that motor transport industry will have to be nationalized and we cannot do without it. However, after giving a careful attention to the matter, I have arrived at the conclusion that under the present circumstances, it would not be possible for the Government to nationalize it at once. It will have to be done by stages.

My hon. Friend, Chaudhri Kartar Singh, who is not in his seat at present, remarked that if the Government took over this industry, it would suffer losses. I am rather of the opinion that there is no question of loss involved in it. The question is about the amount of profits to be made. Government should, therefore, proceed with the nationalization scheme but at the same time it should also see that no injustice is done to the operators. But this does not mean that we

should allow them to continue to enjoy large profits at the cost of the larger interest of the State, for all times to come. We cannot afford to hold out any guarantee that in view of their past services, the operators will continue to remain masters of this industry for ever.

Then, Sir, postponement of the scheme for three or five years appears to me to be meaningless. The underlying fact is the coming elections, which will take place within a year or so. I may tell the House that after the next elections the things will undergo a tremendous change. Nationalization of industries will come in the forefront. This resolution even if passed will prove to be of no avail, as it will be brushed aside by the people in power. It is only a question of fifteen or sixteen months.

Before I finish, I would like to say one or two things more. I subscribe to the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha, that is that the loss which the operators of one route taken over by the Government, suffer should be equally divided among all the operators employed in the trade, so that a particular number of operators may not suffer. In the end I may sound a note of warning to the Government that if they fail to bring about the nationalization of the motor transport industry, they are bound to be ousted. They should not sacrifice the interests of the State simply to please a section of the province.

Mr. Speaker : It would be better if the time limit is reduced to ten minutes.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : On a point of order, Sir. So far no time has been given to those hon. Members who want to oppose the motion. Now that you have been pleased to further reduce the time, I request that they should be offered an opportunity.

Mr. Speaker : That is the reason why I have reduced the time limit.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to make a few submissions in regard to the Motion now before the House. At present there are two points under the consideration of the House; one relates to the postponement of the Nationalization of Motor Transport in the State for 5 years and the other relates to this very postponement for 3 years. I have risen to support those of my hon. Friends who have advocated its postponement for 5 years. As a matter of fact I was in favour of its postponement for 3 years, but I have taken my stand of 5 years postponement in the hope of getting this postponement for at least 3 years. I have certain fears so far as the other part of the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi is concerned. Through this amendment it is proposed that the Government may take over such routes as it deems essential as an experimental measure. It is not clear as to which routes the Government should take up as an experimental measure. We can also deduce this meaning from the other part of this amendment that all the routes except one or two may be taken by the Government under the scheme of nationalization. This point needs some clarification on the part of the Government. I am quite in agreement with my hon. Friends on the issue of 'experimental measure' provided assurances are given by the Government to the effect that the operators would be given new routes and would not be put to any unnecessary inconvenience whatsoever. What I wish to point out is that Government should make it clear as to how it will divide the routes amongst the operators and what steps would be taken in this direction. Before taking any route under the scheme of nationalization, Government should first decide the question of compensation to the persons concerned. How and to what extent compensation would be given to them has got to be decided first. Next comes the question of the employment of these operators and their establishment who would be deprived of their bread. This is not all. Some decision has to be made about the 'good will' of their concerns, their property and other necessary items. I am given to understand that it is the intention of the Government to purchase these things from the operators at very cheap and nominal rates. I would request the Government that this sort of treatment should not be meted out to them. They should be compensated reasonably. Adequate and satisfactory arrangements should be made for their employment. If this is done, I am sure, Government will not be burdened with any complaints what-so-ever. At the time of bringing in a Bill for Nationalization of Motor Transport, after the

adoption of the Resolution, now before the House, for the consideration of this House, Government should not hesitate to treat them sympathetically and also to their entire satisfaction. If assurances about safeguarding the interests of the operators are given by Government, I will have no objection if the second part of the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi regarding the experimental measures is carried. I will support it with all the emphasis at my command.

So far as the scheme of the nationalization of transport is concerned, I wish to point out that almost all the hon. Members of this House are in its favour. It appears to me that they say so only verbally, while actually they are in favour of something else. They have their vested interests and naturally they change their tone and oppose the same thing which they whole heartedly supported at the outset. This is the case with everybody here. Under the circumstances Government should arrive at some decision, keeping all these factors in view. But I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that the good of the State should always be kept in mind. In fact it should be our watch word. It is a sacred duty to keep the good of the State always in view. But we should not sacrifice the interests of any community or class for the good of the State.

Further I wish to point out that the present officers cannot carry on the administration of transport because they are not recruited to do this particular job. For instance officers whose job it is to maintain law and order or who hold executive jobs cannot do the work as efficiently as desired. Here I would like to suggest that a separate Economic Service should be created for doing this job. Trained people would thus be of great help in this State enterprise. It will not be out of place to mention here that if pressure is brought upon the present officers to do this job, I am sure, work will not be done satisfactorily and our object would not be achieved. I would therefore request the hon. Chief Minister to give all sorts of assurances in this direction, before, any opinion, can be formed about the matter now under the consideration of the House, whether or not we should support this amendment. With these words, Sir, I support the amendment of 5 years postponement of the Nationalization of Motor Transport.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar (Non-Union, Labour) (*Hindustani*): Sir I rise to oppose the main Resolution and also the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi. Some of my hon. Friends have

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar]

supported the Resolution while some of them have supported the proposed amendment. I was listening with rapt attention to the speech of my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. While I was hearing him, I thought he was opposing both the resolution and the amendment. But at the end of his speech I was really surprised to hear him supporting the amendment regarding the postponement of nationalization scheme for 3 years. I have no hesitation in pointing out that both the proposals of my hon. Friends of 5 years and 3 years appear to me like a thin end of the wedge. They pretend that in this way the object of nationalization will be easily achieved. But actually that way they are trying to shelve the whole scheme for all time to come. There are others who directly attack the policy of nationalization itself and say that it is harmful, or the time for its operation has not yet come, or the Government will fail to run the commercial undertakings and so on. It will not be out of place to mention in this connection that even in the House of Commons in England Messrs Churchill, Eden and other Conservatives argued in the same strain and used to say that the adoption of the policy of nationalization would be very harmful to the interests of the country and that it would have very bad repercussions and also that Government was incapable of undertaking such work. My hon. Friend Shri Virendra opposed the idea of immediate nationalization on the ground, that the present Government was absolutely incompetent to manage affairs. Such statements made by such responsible Members, are a slur on the Government. I wish to point out that if the Government and its officials are so inefficient and incompetent and are incapable of undertaking great responsible works then such a Government deserves to be drowned in the river Satluj before it drowns the whole Province, and throws public interests in a complete jeopardy. I for one am of the opinion that the Government is really not so bad. It is, or it can be made capable of undertaking this work and the sooner it is done the better would it be. After all we have to go ahead with our schemes for the advancement of our province. We have to undertake new enterprises and the heavy responsibility falls on our shoulders. In case the present move to nationalize transport is postponed, just as the movers of the resolution and the amendment intend to suggest, I am sure, we will never be in a position to achieve that object in future.

So far as the Road Transport is concerned, a Road Development Committee was set up in 1927. After due deliberations this committee prepared a scheme for the co-ordination of Railways and Roads, with a view to giving impetus to trade and commerce of the

country and to meet the future requirements of the 'military.' In the present changed conditions we cannot afford to ignore the requirements of our strategy, where Rail Road co-ordination will play a very decisive part. Moreover, so long as roads and railways are not co-ordinated, the expenditure of military will continue to multiply. I regret, most of my hon. Friends have looked at the question merely from the point of view of the private business of the Transport Operators, and thus want the private concerns to continue running this business but unfortunately they do not really realise the significance at this juncture of the Transport nationalization. Perhaps they have not understood the real idea underlying the present policy of nationalization of road transport. That is why the Government of India has been repeatedly inviting the attention of our Government towards the importance of co-ordinating roads and railways. Under the circumstances any postponement of nationalization would be highly detrimental to the defensive arrangements of the country. My hon. Friends should realise the implications of their resolution and the amendment. We should keep this in mind that immediate nationalization of Road Transport is needed in order to facilitate the rapid movements of the military, particularly when any emergency arises. We should agree to this because our Defense Department needs it.

My hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh has, in the course of his speech, remarked that the nationalization of motor-transport would result in the fixation of working hours for the labourers and thereby reduce the amount of profit. He said that the Government will have to pay much higher wages to the workers, and thereby raise the labour cost of these commercial concerns. At present the private operators are running them cheaply, because workers are paid only starvation wages. I would like to know from my hon. Friend whether he means to say that it is not an urgent need of time that the labour should have fixed hours of work, and they are entitled to be paid fair wages. His argument in fact goes against him. My one argument for immediate nationalization is that until the industry is nationalized, the labour will not receive a fair and just treatment at the hands of the private operators, whose sole aim is nothing but profit. Is it not imperative that all possible facilities to workers and labourers be afforded. They are also human beings. Should we deny them even a few facilities already in vogue in other provinces. Perhaps my hon. Friend has forgotten the facilities afforded to the Transport workers in Bombay, U. P., C. P. and other States after the Transport has been

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar]

nationalized. They enjoy a holiday in a week, 15 days casual leave in a year and earned leave too. I regret our province is very slow—extremely slow, not only in affording relief to the workers, but also in implementing and enforcing the various laws that the Central Government has enacted in order to help the labour. So nationalization is an immediate necessity for alleviating the fears of the labour, if not for any other reason. I feel surprised, how a congressman could advance such an argument to oppose nationalization, that in the Government's hands labour would receive a fair deal. That is an argument which goes in our favour, and against those who want to oppose nationalization by postponement tactics, or by recommending a go slow policy. In fact they involuntarily widen the gulf between the workers and transport operators.

I know at present most of the operators are in a very prosperous condition. I have no time to mention their names nor give here a list of their fat incomes. Take for instance the case of the Managing Director of the Kalka-Simla transport company, who has got a lease for at least twenty years, on the most liberal terms. Practically for whole of this period he would be the virtual owner of the business. All other share-holders, combined, own only five to ten per cent of the total shares. Naturally the Director who holds most of the shares has monopolised the highest post. Similar is the case with Ambala-Rupar transport service. The directors are earning a lot everywhere. They are spending huge sums of money to finance propaganda against the nationalization scheme of the Government. They would never allow this scheme to materialize.

Secondly I would urge the hon. Members of this House to have faith and confidence in the ability of the Government to carry through efficiently and successfully, what ever scheme is entrusted to its care. Either we should not entrust it with the heavy responsibilities of running the administration, or if we do, we should not doubt and cast reflections on its ability and competency every moment. It is unbecoming on our part to put the Ministers on the saddle, on one hand, and then in the same breath condemn them, and accuse them of inefficiency and incompetency. Then condition of labour employed in motor transport industry is very pitiable. Their work is arduous, but remuneration meagre. A driver is paid sixty to seventy rupees per mensem, a conductor forty-five to fifty rupees and a cleaner thirty to thirty-five rupees. It is

a pity that these hard-worked people should not be allowed even a living wage. Sometimes back the Indian National Trade Union Congress conducted an inquiry into the condition of living of these workers. As the result of this inquiry it was found that on an average every driver and cleaner has to discharge a debt of Rs. 482 and that the average monthly cost of living of a driver or a cleaner amounts to at least Rs. 84/-. Besides, they are not provided with such benefit as the Provident Fund, Accident Insurance, or old Age pensions, etc.,—benefits which workers in other industries and in other States are enjoying. Nor any housing accommodation is provided to them. They have many grievances against their employers and disputes are of common occurrence. The workers are being crushed to pieces, while the rich, influential and powerful employers are putting all kinds of pressure on the Government to postpone nationalization. It is our common concern that there should be a substantial increase in the Government revenues. Why should then we place hindrances in the way of nationalization.

It has been averred that a large number of share holders in the transport companies are ex-servicemen. But this is not the whole truth. As I have already said most of the shares are owned by those who are directors and managers—men who really matter. Their number is much limited. Most of the profits go into the pockets of a few big bosses. If facts and figures were to be collected, truth would stand revealed and many ugly facts would come to light. If our State is to progress, our pace must be rapid. Nationalization at snail's speed would not be of much avail. If we have to progress, we shall have to take long and rapid strides. Any further postponement of this scheme would hamper the progress of the Punjab.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram (Hissar North, General, Rural) [*Hindi*] :
Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi. Our Government is in sore need of more funds, to increase its income. It has already spent a large amount of the money of tax-payers like us on the purchase of lorries. A large number of vehicles are lying idle for the last two years. The Government has invested Rs. 30 to 35 lakhs on them, and has not earned a single pie so far. If this scheme of nationalization is dropped altogether, I am afraid we the ruralites will be burdened with more taxes. It is just because we have been opposing such measures, that the Government has had to increase the rate of 'abiana' at our cost.

[Chaudhri Sahib Ram]

It is time we people realized our own interests. Though I am not in favour of nationalization yet I feel it expedient to extend my support to it because I know if it is dropped, more burden will be thrown on us in the shape of some new tax.

Gyani ji has urged the grant of compensation to the operators, in case any routes are taken over by the Government. We, rural people, are not prepared to pay more taxes for this purpose. If compensation has to be given, the expenditure should be met by levying some tax on the urban population. Mr. Sethi has suggested that tax may be levied on passenger's traffic, and Thakur Dalip Singh has opposed it. I think Thakur Sahib should not have opposed it since its impact would fall mostly on townsmen. On the one hand Thakur Sahib complains of lack of good roads and on the other hand he opposes schemes for increasing the Government revenues. We the rural people are in no case prepared to pay more taxes for increasing the comforts of the urban people. It has been stated that now we are a free people, we should not talk in terms of urbanites and ruralites. Should we then stop voicing the feelings and needs of our constituents? Is it desired that after having been elected from among rural people, we should ignore their true interests. Is it not our duty to represent their cause? The urban people interpret everything in their favour. I welcome Shri Virendra's suggestion that all industries in the province should be nationalized. I also consider it very essential for the progress of this province. People whose eyes are turned toward Delhi, would lead us to ruination. With these words, I support Mr. Sethi's amendment.

Sardar Piara Singh (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural)
(*Punjabi*) : Sir, much has been said on the resolution which is at present under discussion before the House. I would like to impress upon the Government that the transport operators are all men of ordinary means. A transport Company has about one hundred persons as its shareholders. Operators are mostly ex-soldiers and have a well-knit organization of their own. The Government should not unnecessarily create opposition of this group against it as it will adversely affect those people when the State control of motor-transport takes place. These operators number about one lac in the province and the Government may well imagine their desperation at hearing about the decision of the Government to nationalize transport. This will naturally aggravate the discontent already prevailing in the State. Such people, disgruntled as they would be—will start a sniping campaign against the Government. I would, therefore, warn

the Government that the present time in our State does not justify to inaugurate this scheme. The Government will be well advised to first nationalize large industries, factories and other business-concerns and leave out transport for the present. It does not look proper that the popular Government should snatch away their business-concerns which they started some years ago by selling their land and ornaments. I would not take much time of the House and appeal to the Government to maintain status quo for a period of five or six years.

Captain Ranjit Singh (Hissar South, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, a resolution has been moved before the House to postpone the scheme of nationalization of motor transport for a period of five years. This demand for postponement for five years means abandoning of nationalization scheme for ever. When a resolution suggesting to postpone the nationalization programme is moved before the House, it shows that the mover of this resolution is in favour of the principle of nationalization. The supporters of this resolution have not advanced any cogent arguments while opposing the policy of nationalization. The mover of this resolution has pointed out that the officers of the Government are not competent to work out schemes. I find no force in the argument of my hon. Friend and do not know as to how the efficiency will be attained after five years' time. After the partition of the province, the officers of the Government had worked with keen sense of devotion to duty and I find that efficiency in all Government departments has much improved. It may be that any person may make all sorts of charges against any particular officer due to personal grudge but I can say that our administrative machinery is functioning quite efficiently. The officers realise that they are now part and parcel of a free Government and cheerfully shoulder the burden of work and responsibility. They are doing their job as faithfully and efficiently as they can in order to build the future of their state. It is not, therefore, meet and proper to pass uncharitable remarks against them. I would submit that if the scheme of nationalization of transport is postponed for a period of five years, I am sure, that the vested interest will again try at the expiry of this period, to get it postponed for an indefinite time. This scheme is surely to be condemned at all times.

At first the Government had an idea to put this scheme into operation in the year 1947. But at that time it was proposed by the operators to postpone it for three years. My hon. friend the mover of this resolution should know that by this postponement the

[Captain Ranjit Singh]

poor tax-payer has been hard hit. If this scheme had been inaugurated in the year 1947-48, the road transport would have made great progress by this time. The hon. Member has referred to the rail-road competition and is feeling apprehensive about it but it will continue to exist even after five years. The Government will try to achieve maximum co-ordination between the two. I admit that the shareholders in some Motor Transport Companies are poor men but the things as they stand at present they get very meagre share of income which is mostly appropriated by the Managing Directors themselves in some way or the other. Nationalization will really help these people a great deal. The motor drivers who are not shareholders of the companies would then serve the State instead of private employers and would get better terms and more facilities. In the present system of motor transport public is being put to great inconvenience as the buses do not run to proper timings and even discrimination is shown in the issue of tickets to passengers. There will be great improvement in the working conditions of the transport when it is brought under State control. I would, therefore, submit that we should not be merely sentimental. It does not behove us to make any attempt to give the question a communal colour. Everybody has a right to live in Punjab irrespective of any consideration of caste, colour and creed. This is a secular State and the question of religion should not arise here. Any person living here who thinks on communal lines should be dubbed as an enemy of the State. We should be above communal considerations and must be able to consider our problems on merit. In case we honestly feel that the operators will be able to stand on their own feet by finding some other source of income in a period of two or three years we should try to accommodate them and postpone the scheme for that period. But to me it appears as if postponements are being suggested not to help the operators but sheerly to gain time. In such circumstances it does not behove us that we should ask the Government to defer the operation of this scheme for five or for 3 years. My hon. Friend Shri Virendra of course adduced a very pertinent argument when he said that it was difficult to provide funds. But it is a productive scheme and we should do our level best to spend whatever we can, on it. However if it is not possible to take the whole scheme in hand at once we should try to bring into operation only a part of it. For example the companies which are creating mischief may be taken over immediately and companies which are mainly run by the drivers and small shareholders may be given time. We shall somehow try to sink our differences, put our

heads together and do some useful work for our people. If we are always torn by conflict we will not be able to strengthen our state and develop it on the right lines. We should not make speeches merely for the sake of making speeches and for playing to the gallery. We should do something substantial.

Sardar Kabul Singh (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, so far as the principle of nationalizing industries is concerned I am always prepared to support it whole heartedly. To my mind this is the only effective way of increasing the revenues of our state. But at the present time I have got up to support the resolution of my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang which says that the scheme of nationalizing transport be postponed for a period of five years. Sardar Sahib has given weighty reasons for postponement and I endorse whatever he has said.

Sir, about two years ago a National Planning Committee was set up by the All India Congress Committee with the Prime Minister of India as its President. An attempt was made to include such members in the committee as had progressive views, the object being to help people, improve their financial condition. This Committee suggested that cooperative societies should be established at various places with a view to set up and encourage cottage industries. The Committee felt as we all feel that the good of the country requires not accumulation of capital in few hands but its equitable distribution among all our people. Therefore if this be our object I feel that in place of transport industry which does not let money go into few pockets, we should take steps to nationalize factories, cinemas, big business concerns and banks etc. In my opinion Transport is not an industry which produces capitalists. I am in a position to say that 95 per cent. of the operators are sons of our peasants whom we must support and help if we are to act up to the advice given to us by H. E. the Governor in his address. I am in a position to say that a very large majority of these people stood and fought for us in the battle of our freedom. They made every possible sacrifice for us and if we cannot reward them for their services by giving medals and awards we should not at any rate snatch from them the means of their livelihood. Their sacrifices in the battle of freedom apart, as it has been admitted by some hon. Members of this House, they rendered Yeoman's service in saving the lives of lakhs of our people after partition in 1947. They placed their own lives in jeopardy and helped the public as also the State. We should encourage and not discourage these workers.

[Sardar Kabul Singh]

My hon. Friend Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar was pleased to say that the postponement of the scheme was being opposed on principle. I ask him why should we not take steps against those who are amassing wealth and being demoralized themselves were spreading the infection of cowardice throughout the country. When Police action was being taken in Hyderabad the demoralized business community of Amritsar was fleeing from the city. I think we should immediately proceed against those who are accumulating money in factories and whole sale concerns through the black market. We should nationalize their concerns and help those who stood by us in the hour of our need. We should not punish people because they have rendered us some service particularly when we know that if war breaks up they will not fail us. Here I am reminded of a Punjabi saying :

ਜੁਲਾਹੇ ਦੀ ਮਸ਼ਕਰੀ ਮਾਂ ਭੇਟ ਨਾਲ ।
ਜੁਲਾਹੇ ਦੀ ਮਸ਼ਕਰੀ ਮਾਂ ਭੇਟ ਨਾਲ ।

This means that a weaver who is proverbially coward can't dare molest females of others and has therefore recourse to his own. I would in the circumstances request that we should not penalize people for having stood us in good stead. I may also quote Iqbal. He says :

ਇਕਬਾਲ ਬੜਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ਕ ਹੈ ।
ਇਕਬਾਲ ਬੜਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ਕ ਹੈ ।

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Mr. Speaker I have already drawn your attention to this point and wish to appeal to the hon. Members once again not to give rustic examples of Marasis and weavers, as fortunately or unfortunately some ladies also happen to be Members of this House. The hon. Member should withdraw the example cited by him.

Sardar Kabul Singh : I am a country-dweller of the Punjab and am voicing the feelings of the Punjabee villagers.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : He must withdraw his words. It is not proper to use these words.

(Sardar Kabul Singh again rose to speak)

Mr. Speaker : That is all. The hon. Member can speak no more.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : *Mr. Speaker*, the resolution before the House has been discussed at length and speeches have been made in favour of as well as against it. Though I could not listen to all the speeches made with regard to it, I am aware of all the arguments which can be and have been advanced for or against it, because the subject has been considerably discussed outside this House also.

At the outset, I wish to give a brief history of this scheme. The Government considered the question of nationalization of transport in 1947. Prior to that, this question was discussed in 1946 also, when the Congress Party formed Government in coalition with other parties in the pre-partitioned Punjab. Instructions were received from the Congress Parliamentary Board for the nationalization of motor-transport. When the Government decided to nationalize it, the question arose as to who should be entrusted with preparing a scheme for this purpose. At first it was decided to ask the Public Service Commission to recruit a suitable person for doing this work. Then we thought that we should approach other States and ask them to suggest some person to do this work. We found that Punjabis were doing this work in some other States. It was thought that we won't be able to get a suitable person from outside our State. Then the Government selected a responsible person who had been doing this work and knew its ins and outs and asked him to prepare a scheme. He chalked out a scheme which was discussed by the Cabinet. According to that scheme nationalization had to be done by stages. The Government asked him to explore the possibility of effecting nationalization in a single stage and to prepare another scheme on that basis. That officer prepared both the schemes. Some of my hon. Friends said that the Government did not possess able officers who could execute the scheme. I wish to tell them that the Government has got very competent officers who can execute the work very efficiently.

As a popular Government, we decided to take up this matter in consultation with those engaged in this trade. It was not correct on the part of transport-operators to think that the Government wished to do them harm. This scheme was intended for the benefit of the State.

Keeping this fact in view, the Government started talks with the representatives of transport-operators. Two or three meetings took place and the transport operators were assured that the Government would act in a manner which would be just to them as well as to the Government. After that a convention of the motor-transport-operators in the Punjab was held at Rupar. It is very commendable that the

[Chief Minister

transport companies in this State have formed an Association and do not enter into cut-throat competition with each other. The convention held by this Association at Rupar was presided over by the Congress President, Shri Pattabhi Sitaramayya. A resolution was passed at that convention and the Congress President also advised that the transport operators should hold negotiations with the Government.

Ch udhr Suraj Mal : We have read all this in the newspapers.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member does not appear to know that while discussing this matter, I have to refer to all these things. If he thinks that his time is being wasted, he need not keep sitting while I am referring to these matters. After meeting us here, the representatives of transport operators met us again at Amritsar. They placed certain points before us and we assured them that we would discuss these points with them again and would not take decision without consulting them. The President of Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, Gyani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, was also with them.

According to the scheme, the Government had to run omnibus service. I don't think the transport operators have any objection to the Government doing so. According to the demands made by them so far, they have desired to know the basis on which the amount of compensation to be paid for their carriages would be determined. They have also requested that if some settlement regarding determination of adequate compensation is arrived at, in addition to motor-buses the Government should take over their work shops and other buildings also. Compensation should, of course, be paid for these also.

6 P. M. [Then there is the question of partnership of the transport operators with the Government before us. If the partnership is agreed upon, we shall have to determine as to how many shares are to be allotted to the operators and whether they are to get majority of them or less than that. In this connection, the Government is examining the principles decided by the transport operators. If I were to reply to the speeches made by the hon. Members of this House whether for or against the resolution and the amendment, I am afraid I shall be prejudicing the negotiations that are now going on between the Government and the transport operators. As a result of that the negotiations would not be carried on, because it is not possible to do so if we are not open to conviction. If I start replying to the debate, the negotiations with the representatives of the transport operators become meaningless. But I don't want to hinder those negotiations. It

appears that the claimants are less enthusiastic than his supporters. The operators are willing to carry on negotiations with us, but those who profess to support them here are actually not acting in their interest. I, therefore, don't think it proper to say anything in support of or opposition to the Resolution.

Some hon. Members have pointed out that the Transport Department of the Government is not efficient enough to run the whole business, and Omnibus Service is running at a loss. It has also been said that the Minister concerned is himself against the nationalization of transport. I am at a loss to understand as to why these arguments have been put forward. These Friends should have known that whatever the Government does, is done on the basis of joint responsibility of members of Cabinet. So there is no question of an hon. Minister doing anything on the basis of his personal opinion. It is wrong to attach much importance for this purpose to the statements issued by an hon. Minister before he entered office. As regards the Omnibus Service, I may inform the House that it is not running at a loss. It is not proper for an hon. Member to say so without actually having seen the account of the Service. It is also incorrect to say that the Government has no efficient officers for the purpose of running the transport business. I have already said something about the officer who is responsible for the formulation of the scheme for transport nationalization. The efficiency of the subordinate staff depends on the efficiency of the higher authorities.

It has been said that the transport operators work more efficiently than the officials of the Government. But I may tell my hon. Friends that the operators, when they would have shares in the concern would naturally continue to take interest in it and thus the efficiency will not suffer. As a matter of fact it would be their duty to make the concern a success.

Again it has been said that, if we nationalize the transport, we act against the agriculturists, who have made sacrifices for the country. It means that the Government is not of the people and they are against each other. But I may make it quite clear to all the hon. Members that ours is a popular Government and we never make distinction between one set of people and the other. It is the duty of the Government to think of providing work to everybody in the State.

Again it is said that the nationalization of transport would inflict losses on the already ruined displaced persons, the zamindars and the

[Chief Minister]

military men who have invested capital in this business after selling their land. It is not the policy of the Government to take anything without paying compensation. I am not one of those who believe in 'confiscation without compensation' as a principle of their politics. This is not our principle. If we nationalize a concern after arriving at some agreement with the people concerned, adequate compensation would be given to them. We cannot take any company under our control against the above principle. We work for the benefit of all the people of the State irrespective of the fact whether they are ruralites or urbanites. Those who say we favour one section of our people at the cost of others, are actually trying to create a gulf between one set of people and the other. It is most improper to raise such questions. As a matter of fact, both the ruralites and the urbanites are inter-dependent; one cannot live without the other. I wonder how people who live in towns can call themselves ruralites. They only want to exploit the farmers for the purpose of creating a gulf between them and others. Of course, there are such persons who cannot plough land, they yet consider themselves agriculturists and they pretend to espouse the cause of the rural population. On my part, I consider myself a Punjabi first and a Punjabi last. As such I try to serve the rural and the urban populations equally. Some persons want to create a gulf between the villagers and the city people. Their motives may be to reap advantage out of it for themselves or their parties in the coming elections.

Mr. Speaker : No insinuations, please.

Chief Minister : Those who, due to some such motives, try to create such a gulf do not, in fact, do any service to the country or the province. They, as a matter of fact, do harm to both. Times are such that the interests of the country demand that we should work in a spirit of fraternity and love. This was the life mission of the Father of the Nation. He taught us to serve one another. If we are to work for the country we will have to cast aside the anti-national tendencies of making distinction between one section of people and another. On the other hand our energies should be directed against illiteracy and the removal of the backwardness of the Harijans etc. The Harijans are economically backward. They live in wretched conditions. They work from morning till evening. Our State cannot make progress unless the lot of such down-trodden persons is improved.

It is the duty of us all to raise the living standards of such sections of

society. It is only by doing such service to others that we can go forward as a nation. Why should we indulge in useless efforts of creating differences between the villagers and the people living in cities and towns? We should look at the problem from a sensible point of view. Suppose for instance we decide upon this scheme of nationalization of transport. What we will have to consider is whether the scheme is beneficial to Punjab as a whole or not. We will look at it from that angle. If it is for the benefit of the people at large that we will approach the operators and request them to accept it. We will try to make them understand the advantages that will accrue to the State. If our approach is sincere and our reasons are sound, there is no reason why they should not agree to it. They love their country as much as we do. So I would appeal to the House through you, Sir, to look at this problem from this point of view. The operators have broad and patriotic outlook. They have in the past made sacrifices for the country and they are still prepared to serve the nation if called upon to do so. On our part we will make sure that they are not made to undergo unnecessary sufferings. It is our duty to see that they get full facilities for leading a happy and comfortable life. Our intention is to give them justice. There is no reason why any injustice may be perpetrated upon them. We ought to give adequate consideration to their point of view as well.

Sir, it has been said on the floor of the House that the operators should not be made to suffer alone. If the Government is going to nationalize, why does it not nationalize other trades and factories as well? They say that everything should be nationalized at once. In fact, those who put forth such arguments are not themselves in favour of nationalization at all. Nationalization is not like electricity that you can switch it on, all at once. It can only come by stages and to begin with you have to decide upon one or two things for the purpose. If an argument in favour of selecting one thing first is advanced another can be advanced for choosing a second thing. So you move in a vicious circle and you will have to break it. It is impossible to start with all the things at once. As a matter of fact those who advance such arguments are not at all keen about nationalization.

Further, Sir, it has been said that there is the question of rail-road competition. But will it lead to any general good? Times have changed. Now all should join hands and work for the common good. Competitions are not going to pay. New roads are to be made where there are none, so that the produce of the villages may easily

[Chief Minister]

reach the markets for the mutual benefit of the consumers and producers. Money is required for the construction of new road, and the maintenance of old ones and for other multifarious activities of the State. Where from will this money come? Should we get it from those who have come from West Punjab or from others? Should we get it from the villagers or from the city people? Some suggest that we should tax the rich people and not the poor. But may I know the definition of a rich person? I don't find any such persons in the villages or cities of Punjab whom we may call rich. Of course, before partition there used to be some rich zamindars in the villages of West Punjab. But their number was very small. Once in United Punjab a question arose as to how many persons paid more than five thousand rupees as land Revenue. Only thirteen such persons could be counted in the whole of Punjab. Now after partition there are practically no big zamindars left in Punjab. The mill-owners are also few. They have small capital. Punjab is at present essentially a province of the middle class. Those who were formerly rich have been reduced to poverty and the condition of those who were poor is beyond words to describe. When we study this problem we begin to wonder how much time and effort it will take to bring all to the level of a well-to-do middle class in this province. So, to say that we can tax the rich people looks strange because I find practically no rich people here. Still we have somehow to make progress and all resources must be tapped. But in this matter we don't wish to go forward in an arbitrary manner. We have been negotiating with the operators and we are prepared to accommodate them as much as we can. If we embark upon the scheme of nationalization we will give adequate compensation. If we take the routes that will also be after consultation with the persons concerned.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Question may now be put, Sir.

Chief Minister : Well, Sir, I was going to say that.

Shri Bhim Sen Saehar : On a point of order, Sir. Is the request of the hon. Member not out of order?

Mr. Speaker : No, it is quite in order, but the hon. Member did not press it.

Chief Minister : I may therefore tell the hon. Members that they are at liberty to accept the resolution and throw out the amendment. But they must remember that if they do so, i.e., if they reject

the amendment they would be putting obstacles in the way of the Government. I do not want that any impediment should be placed in resolving this problem amicably. But if any attempt is made by any party to thwart the settlement, then it would be neither in the best interests of the operators nor that of the Government. I think I have made the position abundantly clear and I reiterate that whatever decision we may arrive at, it would be taken in full consultation with the representatives of the operators. We would sit together, deliberate together and thus find out a solution satisfactory to them. Through you, Sir, I assure the House and the operators that nothing will be thrust down their throat. I hope they will extend their co-operation unstintedly. I expect that any step they take in the matter would be in consonance with the best interests of the State of Punjab. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Members that if they think fit they may adopt the amendment moved by Shri Dev Raj Sethi; otherwise the resolution may be withdrawn.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyllur East Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have listened to the speech of the hon. Chief Minister with rapt attention and I am very grateful to him for the assurance he has held out to safeguard the interests of the operators. I am fully satisfied that he would not do anything which may go counter to the interests of the operators. I fully realise that postponement of the scheme of nationalization of motor-transport for some years, would entail some loss to the State Exchequer. But may I ask whether this is the only source of revenue left? I am of the view that there are several other avenues which can safely be tapped. As you are aware, Sir, private companies are charging exorbitant rates for supplying electric energy. Government is also a big monopolist in this commodity. If it enhances the rates to the same extent to which the private companies have done, I think lakhs of rupees would accrue to the State. I have no objection to the acceptance of the amendment to this resolution and I therefore request the House to adopt the resolution as amended.

Mr. Speaker : Question is -

- (i) That in line 3 for the figure ' 5 ', the figure ' 3 ' be substituted ;
- (ii) That at the end the following words be added :—
“ subject to the condition that the Government may take up such routes as it deems essential as an experimental measure.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is --

This Assembly recommends to the Government to postpone its scheme for the Nationalization of Motor Transport in the State for 3 years, subject to the condition that the Government may take up such routes as it deems essential as an experimental measure.

The motion was carried.

ANTI CORRUPTION OFFICER.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If I move my resolution just now, will it be carried on to the next day ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It will be carried over to the next day fixed for non-official resolutions.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : The hon. Member withdrew from the Chamber. Is he now entitled to move this resolution ?

Captain Ranjit Singh : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : What is the hon. Member's point of order ?

Captain Ranjit Singh : My point of order is that the hon. Member in the first instance declined to move his resolution and then he authorised another hon. Member to move the resolution on his behalf. Now I see some sort of canvassing going on to press him to move his resolution. My point is whether he can be allowed to move his resolution when he himself does not want to do so.

Mr. Speaker : It is half past six of the clock. The House stands adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Friday, 10th March 1950.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

10th March 1950

Vol. I — No. 5.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 10th March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at
10 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh)
in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CRIME IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

*1447. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to press reports relating to the increase in crimes in the Jullundur district ;

(b) what special steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to check the crime wave in the Jullundur district in particular and the Doaba ilaqa in general ;

(c) how does the total incidence of crime in the Jullundur district during the latter half of the year 1948 compare with latter half of the year 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The reports in the press were exaggerated. Crime in the Jullundur District has been on the decrease and is now almost normal as would be borne out from the statement placed on the table of the House.† There is an allround decrease in every type of crime except in dacoities which register a slight increase. This increase is due to the peculiar position of the

†Kept in the Library.

[Chief Minister]

District which is hemmed in on three sides by the Kapurthala territory and on the fourth by the riverain tracts of the Sutlej river. Moreover Jullundur being the centre of the Rehabilitation Department, displaced persons from all over the State visit Jullundur and stay there for weeks together. As they are strangers to this place, the chances of the detection of crime committed by them if any, are, therefore, meagre.

(b) The following special steps were taken by Government to check crime in the Jullundur District, in particular, and the Doaba *ilaga*, in general :—

1. Extensive action under the preventive sections of the Cr. P. C.
2. With the assistance of the P. A. P., the Mounted Police and the members of the Volunteer Corps, extensive patrolling and well-planned Nakabandi were organised on a wide scale, both in the rural and urban areas of the *ilaga*.
3. Striking forces of Police were located at strategic places so that the same may be available for duty at short notice.
4. A special dacoity staff has been constituted in the Jullundur District and a Central investigation staff has been formed in the Hoshiarpur District to deal with serious crime.
5. Village Defence Scheme was enforced vigorously and the fire-arms licensees were given necessary training in the use of their arms so that they may be able to play their part properly and efficiently when necessity arose for the same.
6. Special drives were carried out for the recovery of illicit arms, illicit liquor, arrest of proclaimed offenders and Military Deserters and for tracing absentee bad characters.
7. A special staff for detecting cases of cycle thefts has also been formed at Hoshiarpur.

(c) A statement showing the total incidence of crime in the Jullundur District during the latter half of the year 1948, as compared with the latter half of the year 1949, is also placed on the table of the House.†

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Do not the comparative figures of crime committed in the last six months of the years 1948 and 1949, as given in the statement placed on the table of the House, reveal that while 148 excise offences were committed in 1948, their number rose to 263 in 1949 ? Do not these figures reveal that there was increase in cases of murder by four and that the number of robberies and burglaries also increased ? How can then the situation be described as normal ?

Chief Minister : A certain number of crimes are always committed.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What is the cause of heavy increase in the number of excise offences ?

Chief Minister : Whenever a drive for the arrest of those engaged in illicit distillation is made, a large number of offenders are arrested.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Do not the Excise Sub-Inspectors put up bogus cases ?

Chief Minister : No, the offenders are actually arrested.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that in two villages of Jullundur District, the police helped dacoits in abducting two Harijan girls at night and that these cases have not been decided so far.

Chief Minister : What does the hon. lady Member mean by the 'decision' of these cases ? Have these gone to the Court ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : One of the cases is before the Court and the other is still being investigated as that offence took place about fifteen days back.

Chief Minister : The case which has gone to the Court will be decided there. About the other, as the hon. Member has stated, investigation is still being carried on.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister stated that there had been decrease in crime. Is not the actual position just the reverse of that ? Is it not a fact that the police does not care to investigate some offences ?

† Kept in the Library.

Chief Minister : The commission of two crimes of abduction does not mean an allround increase in crime.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I have brought two cases of abduction of Harijan girls to the notice of the Government. Many more crimes are being committed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to state that the number of crimes committed in the latter half of 1949 was not larger than that for the same period during 1948. Do not the figures supplied by him reveal a different state of affairs ?

Chief Minister : As submitted by me, when drive is made for tracing cases of illicit distillation, it results in registration of a large number of cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do not the figures reveal increase in the number of dacoity cases ? Is not dacoity a very serious crime ?

Chief Minister : Yes, there has been slight increase in the number of cases of dacoity, which is certainly a serious crime.

COMMUNISTS UNDER DETENTION.

***1448. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of Communists under detention in the various jails in the Punjab on 31st December, 1949 ;
- (b) the total amount paid up to 31st December, 1949 to the Communist detenus in the form of various allowances ;
- (c) the total amount paid up to 31st December, 1949, to the families of the above referred to detenus ;
- (d) the total number of internees ;
- (e) the number of such Communists who have so far evaded arrest ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 218.

(b) Rs. 111889-0-3 as follows ;—

Diet allowance	...	Rs. 107638 6 9
Toilet allowance	...	Rs. 2423 13 9
Sundry allowances	...	Rs. 1826 11 9

(c) Rs. 6641-1-9.

(d) 66.

(e) It is not in the public interest to supply this information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to state that the Government spent one lakh of rupees as diet allowance of the detenus while a sum of six thousand rupees only was paid as family allowance to their dependants. May I know the number of detenus whose families were given allowance ?

Chief Minister : I shall be able to answer this question, if notice is given.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that it is not in public interest to give out the number of such Communists who are evading arrest. Is it not a fact that their names are published in the Government Gazette ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member knows that their names are published in the Gazette, where is the necessity of his asking this question ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are those prisoners who escaped from Ludhiana Jail also included in those who are said to be evading arrest ?

Chief Minister : I have given no figures of persons who are evading arrest. Those who have escaped from the Jail are certainly wanted for arrest.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have those who escaped from the Jail been re-arrested ?

Chief Minister : Not yet.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that out of one lakh of rupees said to have been paid to detenus as allowance, major part is likely to be contributed by the communists to their Party Fund ? Will it not defeat the purpose for which the Government paid it ?

Chief Minister : It may be so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does not the Chief Minister feel that as compared with one lakh of rupees spent on detenus, the sum of six thousand rupees paid as allowance to their families is too small.

Chief Minister : It should not be understood that the family of every detenie is entitled to allowance as such. Those who are in need of it get it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the hon. Chief Minister assured himself that the families of detenus are well provided ?

Chief Minister : I did not say so. Family allowance is given in those cases where it is considered essential to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How is it that while those who are detained in the Jails have required one lakh of rupees, but only six thousand rupees have been paid as allowances to their families ? Are the dependent families to be punished more than the detenus themselves ?

Chief Minister : The Government has to provide food to those who are detained in the Jails. Why should any money be given to the families of those, who are not in need of it ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government satisfied itself that the families of detenus do not need more than what the Government is giving them ?

Chief Minister : Applications are received for the grant of family-allowance and the Government decides on these after making necessary enquiries.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the Government has any intention of internment of these detenus in their villages for the purpose of effecting saving in expenditure that is now being incurred on them ?

LOCATION OF THE HIGH COURT.

***1456. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government received a proposal to locate the High Court at Jullundur ;
- (b) whether in this connection he undertook a tour ; and if so, the result there of ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. It was found after detailed enquiries that adequate accommodation was not available at Jullundur for locating the High Court.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for posting one or two judges of the High Court at places like Jullundur and Delhi in order to give relief to the litigants ?

Chief Minister : Such a thing is not possible because there will be difficulty in the case of Benches of the High Court.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that the litigants have to undergo a lot of hardship for coming over to Simla ?

Chief Minister : Government is no doubt aware of this fact ; but we have to take into consideration other aspects of the question as well. We first decided to take the High Court down to plains, it was said that we were acting against the wishes of the High Court. Even the Bar Association at that time passed a resolution demanding the removal of High Court to the plains. Later on they passed a resolution for not doing so. In spite of that, we inquired about the accommodation for the judges and their staff. But it could not be managed. That is why we could not shift the High Court to any other place. Moreover the Bar Association desired the High Court to be moved to the new capital town when it is built.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if it is a fact that this House sometime back passed a resolution demanding the removal of High Court to plains as soon as possible ?

Mr. Speaker : I have no recollection of any such resolution.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government for posting a judge of the High Court at some place like Jullundur, as is being considered in the case of Delhi, for the convenience of the litigants,

Chief Minister : My learned Friend should know that the work of High Court cannot be carried on through circuit courts.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the Bar Association recommended for not removing High Court from Simla ? Is he aware of the opinion of the low-paid subordinate servants of the High Court who want that it should be shifted to the plains ?

Chief Minister : This fact alone does not solve our problem. What is required is accommodation.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the building of the Secretariat at Jullundur is not sufficient for the purpose of the High Court and its judges ?

Chief Minister : Accommodation is required not only for the judges but also for other staff and lawyers as well as their clerks.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know in how much time High Court would be shifted to plains ?

Chief Minister : As soon as the capital town is built.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How long would it take to build the capital-town ? The ex-Home Minister said that it would take four or five years ?

Chief Minister : That is his opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that it would take four or five years to complete the capital ?

Chief Minister : No, that is not correct.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY.

***1460. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the nature of work allotted to the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by him so far ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : A note detailing the duties of the Parliamentary Secretaries generally including the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, is laid on the table.† The Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Ch. Kartar Singh did not draw any travelling allowance while he held this office.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state if there are any minimum qualifications required for the office of the Chief Parliamentary Secretary.

Chief Minister : No such qualifications are required either in the case of Members or for the office of the Chief Parliamentary Secretary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Chief Parliamentary Secretary undertook any tours in the past ? If he undertook any, has he charged any travelling allowance for them ?

Chief Minister : He has not drawn any travelling allowance so far.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Chief Parliamentary Secretary has submitted his travelling allowance bills amounting to hundreds of rupees ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I can reply to this question.

LEAVE RESERVE CLERKS.

***1465. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of leave reserve clerks in the office of Deputy Commissioners of each district in the State ;

† Kept in the Library.

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

(b) the monthly salary paid to each one of them ;

(c) whether a majority of them are not yet confirmed even after eight to ten years of continued service ;

(d) the number of such unconfirmed clerks ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) Hissar	...	9
Karnal	...	9
Simla	...	3
Gurgaon	...	8
Rohtak	...	8
Ambala	...	12
Kangra	...	10
Hoshiarpur	...	13
Jullundur	...	11
Ludihana	...	8
Ferozepore	...	14
Amritsar	...	16
Gurdaspur	...	11
Total	...	132

(b) They are drawing pay in the time scale of Rs. 50-3-80 4-100.

(c) No, majority of them are confirmed.

(d) 24 (Approximately).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of the majority of the Government servants who have been confirmed ?

Minster : Minus 24 out of 132

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the maximum period of service put in by any candidate before confirmation ?

Minister : It requires notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government feels that the clerks who are not confirmed remain in doubt regarding their future and thus they cannot start any other business even ?

Minister : The Government servants appointed against reserved posts cannot be confirmed.

FUTURE CAPITAL OF PUNJAB.

***1498. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has decided that Chandigarh will be the future Capital of the Punjab ;
- (b) whether the survey of the place has been duly completed and the layout plan of the site is ready ; if not the time likely to be taken over it ;
- (c) the area acquired for the purpose and the price paid to the owners of land ;
- (d) the number of plots prepared and their categories, if any ;
- (e) the number of plots for sale offered to the public ;
- (f) the dimensions of each type of plots and the price fixed for each category ;
- (g) whether the refugees only are entitled to purchase them ;
- (h) the concessions proposed to be given to purchasers regarding building materials ;
- (i) whether the plots are proposed to be auctioned out and given to the higher bidders, or whether the prices will be fixed by the Government ;
- (j) whether the Government is inviting applications for the sale of these plots ;
- (k) the amenities proposed to be given to the future residents of the Capital ;
- (l) the position regarding the availability of drinking water in Chandigarh ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : Yes, the Government has definitely decided to locate the new Capital of the Punjab at Chandigarh.

[Minister for Labour]

(b) The topographical survey of the area has already been carried out by the Survey Department of the Government of India and the planning of the Capital is now in hand for which Government has selected an American firm of Messrs. Mayer, Whittlesey, Architects and Planners in New York. The master plan of the capital is expected to be ready during this hot weather.

(c) No area has so far been acquired for the construction of the Capital. The question of the price being paid to the owners therefore does not arise.

(d) The question of the number of plots prepared in categories will arise after the detailed planning has been completed which will be undertaken as soon as the master plan has been approved.

(e) and (f) In view of (d) above the question of the number of plots offered to public and the dimensions of each plot etc., does not arise. Plots will vary in sizes from 10 marlas to 1½ acres.

(g) the Government has so far taken no decision with regard to the allotment of plots. For the sale of plots no preference will be shown but facilities of loans will be available to the refugees.

(h) No details have so far been worked out with regard to the issue of building materials to the purchasers of sites but Government has under consideration to give facilities for the purchase of building materials on the same lines as is being done in the case of other refugees colonies built.

(i) This is premature in view of the fact that detailed planning of the township has not yet been completed. These matters would be taken up when further details are available.

(j) The Government has already invited applications for the purchase of plots in the Capital. We have received 40,000 applications. With a view to determining whether all these applications are firm, the Government intends to ask for earnest money from the persons who have so far applied.

(k) It is proposed to provide all amenities to the public in the proposed new Capital of the State in the form of roads, water supply, drainage, public parks shopping centres, etc.

(1) The position of water supply in the capital is under active investigation. While originally it was contemplated to obtain water from the damming of river Ghaggar at Chandigarh in view of our experiments with trial bores at the site of the Capital it is now hoped that we should be able to obtain water from tubewells from the site itself.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I know the approximate area of land which is proposed to be acquired for the construction of the Capital ?

Minister : About eight or nine thousand acres.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Out of this land may I know how much belongs to the Muslim Evacuees and how much to the local inhabitants ?

Minister : This can be known only when the final plan is received.

Shri Virendra : When is the final plan expected to arrive.

Minister : I have already replied that the first plan will reach here by the end of March and the final plan is expected by the end of May.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know what idea was given to the Town Planner about the land ?

Minister : Of course, the idea about the land was given to the Town Planner. But it is for him to select the best place there. It is only after his final plan that any idea about the area of the Evacuee and other land can be made.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Minister may give a tentative idea.

Minister : As some changes might be made hereafter there is no need to give such an idea at present.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What will be the approximate price of eight or nine acres of land that is to be acquired.

Minister : It has not yet been determined.

Shri Virendra : May I know the basis on which the allotment of plots will be made ?

Minister : No final decision has yet been arrived at in this connection.

Shri Virendra : Is it not already late. Decision in this matter should have been arrived at much earlier.

Minister : It is difficult to take any decision on this matter so long as we do not have the plan before us. It is only after we receive the plan that this thing can be decided.

Shri Virendra : Is there any truth in the press reports that the value of the property that is being acquired is about sixteen crores of rupees.

Minister : I don't know from where these presswalas get such information.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to Rule 29 (7) of the Rules of Procedure, it reads :

it shall not contain references to newspapers by name and shall not ask whether statements in the press or of private individuals or unofficial bodies are accurate.

Shri Virendra : All the press reports are not wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Most of them are not

Shri Virendra : These reports are given by Ministers to the press people.

Minister : I think no Minister can give such information.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What is the number of new applications?

Minister : I cannot say this off hand.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : What is the approximate area required for the capital at the first stage and how much evacuee land is included in it ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for answering this question.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : May I know whether the prescribed forms of applying for plots in the new capital are ready.

Minister : The forms have been designed. The number of applications so far received is about forty thousand and in order to see whether all of them are valid, earnest money has been asked for. A final date will be shortly fixed for the purpose.

FUTURE CAPITAL OF THE PUNJAB.

***1499. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government decided in the beginning of 1948 that Chandigarh would be the site for the Capital of the Punjab ;
- (b) what progress, if any, has been made in implementing the above decision ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) is in the negative the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) The Government took the decision to locate the Capital of the Punjab at Chandigarh during the year 1948.

(b) Since then the topographical survey of the area has been carried out and maps completed. The scheme has been carefully investigated and a number of alternative proposals have been worked out. Such problems as communications, water supply and drainage, etc., have been investigated and the Government is now in a position to go ahead with the scheme as soon as master plan is ready. The Government has selected an American firm of Planners by the name of Messrs. Mayer and Whittlesay of New York for the purpose and it is hoped that plans would be ready during this hot weather.

(c) The Government intends to go ahead with the construction of the Capital as soon as the planning of the town is completed.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know how much population is expected to be served by the tube well scheme in the Capital ?

Chief Minister : 1½ lakh of population.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : What further arrangement does the hon. Chief Minister propose to make if the population increases to five lakhs ?

Chief Minister : If the boring experiment which is now being carried out at the site of the Capital, proves a success, then more tube wells will be provided to meet the requirements of the increasing population. But if it fails then water supply would be procured from the river Ghaggar.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Chief Minister kindly inform the House as to what percentage or proportion of the work undertaken by it in regard to the construction of Capital, has been accomplished by it ?

Chief Minister : Master plan is yet under preparation. When it is completed, we would get those things executed first which are of urgent necessity.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My point is that Government must have to do some work in connection with the construction of the Capital. I want to know what percentage of that necessary work has so far been accomplished by the Government.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the Chief Minister is aware of the difficulties and hardships experienced by the poor peons and clerks arising out of the delay in the construction of the Capital ? If so, whether he is prepared to shift the Capital temporarily to some other place to obviate their hardship ?

Chief Minister : Government is well aware of the position, but cannot shift the Capital temporarily to some other place.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the hard lot of these people who are being crushed under the high cost of living and biting cold of the Winter at Simla ? If so, what does the Government propose to do in the matter of alleviating their trouble ?

Chief Minister : Government is fully alive to their difficulties and feels much more than the hon. Lady Member does.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to know how much time the scheme will take before the site of the Capital is capable of admitting the construction of houses ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say off hand,

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : He could give some idea at least.

Chief Minister : Not till the master plan is ready.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : My point is that Government must have some idea as to how long the completion of the master plan will take and then in what time the levelling of the land will be accomplished and so on. Similarly I want to know by what time does the Government expect that it would be possible to lay the first brick of the Government building there ?

Chief Minister : Nothing can be said in the absence of the master plan which as I have said is not yet ready.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : But the Secretariat must have formed some idea of the time which it will take to lay the foundation stone of the first building of the Government ?

Chief Minister : I have nothing to add to what I have already stated. My hon. Friend has been in office and he knows the whole affair.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the material acquired by the Government in connection with the construction of the Capital, has appreciated or depreciated in value ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It does arise. I want to know the progress made in the construction of the Capital.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, information will be collected.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the knowledge of details about the Capital is to remain between the present and past Ministers or other hon. Members are also entitled to know something about it ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member wants any information he can give notice and I will be glad to impart him the necessary information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When does the hon. Chief Minister expect their publication ?

Chief Minister : I can say nothing off hand. But draft electoral rolls are unofficially open to inspection.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Chief Minister has remarked that the electoral rolls have not so far been published. It is possible that they may have to be prepared afresh.

Chief Minister : The possibility is there, but in all probability that necessity may not arise .

Sardar Swaran Singh : When it is admitted that the draft electoral rolls contain certain lacuna, may I know whether Government has any intention to get them rectified by such a method that the necessity of putting in written application is obviated ?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend will agree with me that it would entail a huge amount to get the electoral rolls prepared afresh. In view of this facilities will be granted to the public to put in their objections in writing and the same would be incorporated, if found correct.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to devise any other method for including their names without putting in any applications. Is it also the intention of the Government to include the names of persons on their verbal requests ?

Chief Minister : Government would not be prepared to accept verbal requests and it would be difficult to include their names without making any applications meant for this purpose. Applications would be necessary to give an opportunity to any one who wanted to raise objection against the inclusion of any name in the list.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Has the Government any intention to prepare the additions to the Electoral Rolls ?

Chief Minister : This would be possible when application would be made and objections received by the revising authority.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it the intention of the Government to charge any court fees on these applications ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say whether any fees would be charged. This will be known after the enactment of the new Electoral Law.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Is it a fact that the names of quite a large number of people are registered as voters at more than one place in the State. Is it the intention of the Government to set these irregularities right ?

Chief Minister : These would be set right at the opportune time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if before the submission of objections against the inclusion of names in the electoral rolls, people would be given an opportunity to get the necessary corrections made by the officers. Is it a fact that this practice would result in facilitating the work at the time of raising objections by the people against the inclusion of names ?

Chief Minister : This can be possible only when the electoral rolls are published officially.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member means the supplementary lists.

Chief Minister ; What is the funs in preparing draft supplementary lists.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that draft electoral rolls have already been prepared and that there would be too many mistakes in it on account of the large number of the voters, may I know if before the publication of these lists, people would be given an opportunity to get the necessary corrections rectified ?

Chief Minister : Even in the event of inclusion of all the names in the list, there will always be objection against the inclusion of persons in the electoral rolls.

Shri Virendra : May I know the basis on which the draft electoral rolls have been prepared. Have these been prepared constituency-wise .

Chief Minister : These have been prepared area-

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : In view of the fact that it is the intention of the Government to make arrangements for entering the names of those persons in the rolls who have not been able to do so previously and that large amount would have to be spent on this work, may I know if the Government is prepared to accept the offer of honorary organisations such as Congress Committees etc., to do this job. They will prepare these additions and objections in this connection can be raised afterwards ?

Chief Minister : The suggestion would be acceptable to the Government.

Pandit Faqir Chand : What arrangements has the Government made for transferring the names of those refugees who would shift to some different places at the time of making permanent allotment ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that. However I may add that we have already referred this matter to the Government of India and have further requested them to make this provision in the Electoral Law under which the names of refugees referred to above by my hon. Friend can be shifted.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES.

***1511. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to delimit the constituencies for the purposes of elections under the new constitution.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Instructions about the delimitation of constituencies from the Election Commissioner, created by the Constitution of India are awaited. Preliminary work, such as the working out of figures of voters for each thana, zail and tehsil has, however, been taken in hand.

Shri Virendra : Has any survey been made of the constituencies which are to be delimited. What are the basis of registering the voters ?

Chief Minister : Such lists are being made district-wise and thana-wise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if during the regime of Sachar Ministry any such committee was set up to make any recommendations in this direction. Has the the present Ministry set up any such committee ?

Chief Minister : Not yet.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any Delimitation Committee was formed during the regime of the Bhargava Ministry ?

Chief Minister : One such committee was formed but the Sachar Ministry scrapped it, and another committee was appointed instead.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it the intention of the Government to set up such a committee ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know whether any notification has been issued by the Government about the appointment of this Committee ?

Chief Minister : Not yet.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is a question of rules.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is the hon the Chief Minister perfectly sure that orders have not been issued to this effect ?

Chief Minister : Yes, no orders have been issued.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it the intention of the Government to delimit the constituencies village-wise and town wise at the time of delimitation of constituencies ?

Chief Minister : This is to be done by the Delimitation Committee and not by the Government.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Has this work in connection with the delimitation of constituencies to be done by the Central Government or the State Government ?

Chief Minister : This work is to be done by Delimitation Committee.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government decided to appoint a Delimitation Committee or this matter is still under its consideration ?

Chief Minister : This Committee would be set up under the Electoral Rules.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When will this decision be made by the Government ?

Chief Minister : Electoral Rolls have not yet been prepared.

GAZETTED HOLIDAYS FOR WORK-CHARGED LABOURERS.

***1228. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Sunday and other gazetted holidays are enjoyed by the work-charged labourers working in the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches of the P. W. D. ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the work-charged labourers working in the pumping sections of the Nangal and Bhakra Dams have not been allowed to enjoy the afore-said holidays during the last 18 months, and if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government intends to compensate them for the work done by these employees in these holidays during the last 18 months, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) According to departmental rules, the gazetted holidays and alternate Sundays are allowed to work-charged establishment.
- (b) Pumping operation must work for day and night to make the work possible.

The staff works for 24 hours in 8 hourly shifts which are changed weekly. Every member of the staff gets rest of 32 hours in every fortnight.

At Bhakra the work-charged staff are allowed holidays as per reply to para (a) of question.

- (c) At Nangal, the staff has been compensated in the shape of higher wages as compared to the wages of corresponding staff engaged on other works.

The question of further compensation does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the difference between these persons and those who are already drawing high salaries?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. the Chief Minister has referred to the high wages, may I know as to how much would be the wages. Is there only a difference of 3 or 6 pies ?

Chief Minister : It is just possible that there may be a difference of even annas 8.

LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS.

***1290. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :--

- (a) the total number of the labour welfare officers working in the State on 31-8-49 ;
- (b) whether the labour welfare officer posted at Nangal has been put under the control of Irrigation Department ;
- (c) the number of the labour welfare officers posted at different labour centres of the State who are put under the direct control of P. W. D. at place; other than Nangal ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) Three.

One under the Labour Department on General duty.

One under the I. B. at Nangal, and

One under the I. B. at Government Central Workshop, Amritsar.

- (b) Yes.

- (c) None.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that the Labour Welfare Officer who is posted at Nangal to look after the interests of the labour employed there, is hampered in his work owing to the fact that he is subordinate to the senior officers of the Irrigation Department ?

Minister : No, he is there to look to the difficulties of the labour and carries on his work according to the duties assigned him under the rules. The senior officers do not put obstacles in the way of his performing his duties satisfactorily.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Isn't it a fact that he has to send his 'dak' through the senior officers of the Irrigation Department ?

Minister : One copy of the report of his work comes through them and one copy direct.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Why is he not put under the Labour Department instead of the Irrigation Department ?

Minister : All Departments are Government Departments. It would not make any difference, if he is put under the Labour Department, since he has to carry out the policy laid down by the Government.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Would it not be convenient, if he is put under the Labour Department ?

Chief Minister : If we find it so, we shall do it.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Has the Labour Officer in question sent any report direct ?

Minister : Yes, he always does so.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know how many Labour Officers were recruited direct ?

Minister : I refer the hon. Member to the original reply.

**REPRESENTATION FOR ACQUIREMENT OF LAND FOR WATER
COURSE.**

***1292. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :--

- (a) whether it is a fact that S. Surain Singh and other zamindars of village Baler, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, sent a representation to the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, which was forwarded by me vide my letter No. 1041, dated 3-7-49 regarding the acquirement of land for water course ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid zamindars had deposited rupees two hundred and forty five with the canal authorities being the price of the land to be acquired vide receipt No. 33, dated 31-1-42 ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, were taken by the Canal authorities in the matter ;
- (d) whether the land in question was acquired up till 18-9-49 ; if not, the reasons for delay ;
- (e) what steps, if any, were taken by the canal authorities between 31-1-42 and 3-7-49 after the deposit of the required money in the matter and the reasons for delay in the case ;
- (f) how much more time will be taken by the authorities for the acquirement of the land in question ;
- (g) the date on which the canal authorities received the first representation by the zamindars to move in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

[Chief Minister]

- (c) The original land acquisition case was sent by the defunct Raiwind Division to Kasur now in West Punjab for land acquisition proceedings before the partition of the Punjab. The case was not received back.
- (d) The land was not acquired till 18-9-49. The reasons have already been given vide (c) above.
- (e) As already stated the canal department had sent the case to the Civil Department as the land Acquisition proceedings are carried out by the civil authorities. The responsibility for the delay does not lie with the canal department.
- (f) The zamindars were informed to file a proper application under relevant sections of the Canal Act for fresh proceedings for the acquisition of land. As soon as the application is received action shall be taken and the land will be acquired by the civil department.
- (g) The date has not been traced from the records of the defunct Raiwind Division.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister please indicate the date on which the zamindars were instructed to put in fresh applications ?

Chief Minister : I don't remember.

**SUPPLY OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY TO NAKODAR, HOSHIAR
PUR AND THANA SADAR, JULLUNDUR.**

***1461. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state : =

- (a) whether the Government has under consideration a proposal to supply hydro-electric energy to Nakodar and Hoshiarpur ;
- (b) whether there was any representation made in this connection ;

- (c) whether the inhabitants of the thana sadar area of Jullundur also made representation for the supply of hydro-electric energy to them ; and if so, the result thereof ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) No.

JHAJJAR ROAD

***1466. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state : —

- (a) whether the two miles of the Jhajjar Road falling within the Municipal limits of Rohtak have been provincialised ;
(b) whether the Government has received any representation about the hardships suffered by the public due to its bad condition ;
(c) whether the Government is aware of its condition ; and if so, when the Government intend to build it ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) No
(b) No.
(c) The road is within the municipal limits. It is the responsibility of the Municipal Committee to repair it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the hon. Minister's predecessor had passed orders that the road in question be repaired by the P. W. D. at Government expense ?

Minister : I don't remember.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes, such orders had been passed. (Laughter).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Isn't it a fact that almost every Minister has seen with his own eyes that this road is in a very bad condition ?

Minister : That is why I have said that the municipality concerned should get it repaired.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since how long has the Government been aware of the fact that the municipality is neglecting its duty in the matter and what steps have the Government taken to compel it to do so ? And if the municipality has failed to obey the orders of the Government, why has it not been suspended ?

Minister : It has been asked to do the needful as early as possible and if it fails to do so, the Government will take whatever action it deems necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what the hon. Minister means by 'as early as possible'.

Minister One or two months.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If the Municipality fails to do the needful within that period, will the Government itself undertake the work and suspend the Municipality.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government move in the matter, when people start filing suits of damages and not before that ?

ELECTIONS FOR THE LOCAL BODIES.

***1512. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government have decided to hold elections for the local bodies, during the current year, if so, whether these elections will be held according to the old electoral rolls or the new electoral rolls ;
- (b) if the elections are to be held according to the new electoral rolls the steps taken by the Government to prepare these electoral rolls ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) Government are making efforts to hold the elections to local bodies as early as possible. New electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise would be prepared for this purpose.
- (b) Government have appointed a Director of Elections (Local Bodies) to undertake the preparation of electoral rolls expeditiously.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Minister please define the phrase 'as early as possible'?

Minister : The hon. Member is well-educated. He can consult the dictionary.

Shri Virendra : I am not so highly educated as the hon. Minister.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to enquire from the hon. Minister if his Department has formed some idea as to when the election will be held?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Then may I know when they are going to be held?

Minister : As soon as possible.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is this a reply.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member himself used to give similar replies.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government made an announcement to the effect that elections to local bodies will be held in the course of the next six months?

Minister for Labour : The Government has not issued an official notification to this effect so far, though we think it may be possible to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the draft rolls that have already been prepared, be made the basis for these elections or is it proposed to prepare new rolls?

Minister : Reply to this has already been given in parts (a) and (b) of the reply to the original question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the hon. Minister know that the preparation of electoral rolls should always begin six, seven or eight months before the elections are proposed to be held ?

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. Speaker : Under Rule 11 (1) of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules, I have nominated the following hon. Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen :—

Chaudhri Suraj Mal,
Sardar Dalip Singh Kang,
Shri Ratan Singh Tabib, and
Shri Virendra.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I want to make a personal explanation. This is in regard to an incident which took place the day before yesterday and brought to my notice only yesterday evening when I left this Chamber. While the hon. Chief Minister was replying to the debate in connection with the Governor's Address, I rose on a point of information asking the Government whether it had granted any quota of corruption like the quota of steel. The Chief Minister gave a reply which I could not hear but which was brought to my notice later on and has been reported in the Press. The Chief Minister is reported to have said that there were some persons who had criticized the Government for corruption and at the same time were trying to get petrol pumps. That is an insinuation and I take strong exception to such a remark. In order to vindicate my position, I categorically deny having taken any interest whatsoever in getting a petrol pump either for myself or for anybody else and this insinuation is absolutely baseless. One petrol pump has been given to a refugee but I have absolutely no pecuniary interest with that dealer.

ORDINANCES.

Chief Minister (the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : The following Ordinances promulgated since the prorogation of the last session of the Assembly are laid on the table as required by Clause 2 (a) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India :—

1. The East Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Ordinance, 1949.
2. The East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
3. The East Punjab Merged States (Laws) Ordinance, 1949.
4. The East Punjab Sugar Factories Control Ordinance, 1950.
5. The Punjab Public Safety Preventive Detention (Validation of Acts and Orders) Ordinance, 1950.
6. The Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualifications) Ordinance, 1950.

SUGAR FACTORIES CONTROL BILL.

Minister for Developement (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) ; I introduce the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill.

Minister for Developement : I move—

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, It was a long felt necessity to provide for the licensing of sugar factories and to regulate the supply and price of sugarcane intended for use in such factories. It was also felt that the owner of the factory did not get sufficient quantity of cane required by the factory. For this purpose an Ordinance No. 1 of 1950 was promulgated. As this Ordinance ceases to operate after the expiry of six weeks from the re-Assembly of the Legislature, this Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance and is designed to achieve the objects and purposes regulated by it.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved=

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bil be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, the 11. A. M. Bill has a very interesting history behind it. At the end of the year 1948 the fact was brought to the notice of the Government that a very high price was paid by the factory owners for cane purchased from their agents and it adversely affected the interests of zamindars. A legislative measure was, therefore, considered necessary to regulate the price of sugar cane. This Bill was introduced before the House in the year 1948 and is now before us in the form of an Ordinance. A Select Committee was appointed to report on this Bill in the Budget Session of the year 1949 which submitted its report soon after that. Its report was not considered by the Government in that Session. Even in the Autumn Session this Bill was deliberately not brought forward before the House with a view to benefit the owners of sugar factories. This delay has inflicted great injustice on the poor cane growers.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member was then the Chief Parliamentary Secretary.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I say with full responsibility that I advised the Government in this matter.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member should either support or oppose the motion and I fail to understand what he is doing.

Mr. Speaker : He is saying that the Bill should be passed immediately.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I agree with the hon. Speaker.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Then why is the hon. Member delaying it ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The kisans should not be made to suffer like this. They raised their voice of protest against the delay in enacting this legislation but it had no effect whatsoever upon the Government. I fail to understand that in spite of the fact that the Select Committee had submitted its report in March, 1949, the Bill could not be taken up in the Autumn Session held in the month of October 1949. Under these circumstances, the hon. Chief Minister still asks us that there should not be any suggestion which creates a gulf between the people of the State on the basis of ruralite and urbanite, tenant and landlord. But if this state of

affairs continue to exist, such questions are bound to crop up. It was in the fitness of things that such legislation should have been enacted long before. In spite of the fact that many representations were submitted to the Government, the Government did not like to pass this Bill during the Autumn Session of the year 1949.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member was a Parliamentary Secretary then.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The work of the Parliamentary Secretary is at the most to give advice to the Government and I honestly say that I earnestly requested the Ministry to pass this Bill in October. I hope the hon. Minister for Development, Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, will corroborate my statement. By delaying the passage of this Bill a cruel joke has been played with the kisan and grave injustice has been perpetrated on him.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member relevant ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is pressing that this Bill should be seen through as soon as possible.

Sardar Bachan Singh : It is really very strange that my learned Friend has as yet not been able to make out as to what I am saying. Is it not obvious that I wish that the Bill be passed very soon ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Then why is the hon. Member delaying its passage ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I want to place all relevant facts before the House and expose the Government for its failures.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Bring in a substantive motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member should wait for that time. It is coming.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should bring in a substantive motion against those who were responsible for the delay.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The Chief Minister should know that it was matter of joint responsibility.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the poor growers have to accept whatever price is paid by the factory owners. This state of affairs is intolerable. It was the duty of the Government to pass this Bill in 1948. It has been hanging fire since then. We should always see that people should get help when they want it as it is no use supplying a remedy when the patient is either dead or beyond cure. It is true that our Government has at times evinced a desire to develop the sugar industry. But how is such a thing to come about? Only yesterday a question was asked in this House by my hon. Friend Shri. Dev Raj Sethi as to why sugar ration was less in Punjab than that at Delhi. The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to say that such a question should be addressed to authorities at Delhi. That is certainly not the answer. We have a right to ask the Punjab Government about it. The Government should take steps to produce more sugar in the State. But that is only possible when the kisans have been assured that the capitalists will not be favoured at their cost.

Sir, I make an earnest request to the Government that the policy laid down in the Bill should be put into operation immediately after the Bill is passed. My experience of the past is rather unpleasant as this Bill was not only not passed after it had been reported on by the Select Committee but was not properly enforced when it had been given the shape of an Ordinance. The Ordinance only remained on paper. I hope this time the hon. Minister-in-charge in order to protect the poor zamindars from the capitalist looters will see that this Bill when it becomes an Act is put through without delay. He should put it into operation at once as he has asked the House to consider it at once.

Chief Minister (The. hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, my hon. Friend who has just finished his speech, has mentioned a few things which require a reply. In the first place he said that this Bill has been brought before the House when sugar season is almost over. It is a fact at but it could not be helped. A Bill can only be presented when the House is in Session and not before. Of course, we did what we could and gave it the shape of an Ordinance and fixed the prices of sugar cane. To keep the prices uniform, we corresponded with the Government of India and

they also desired that the grower should in no case be kept at a disadvantage. We accordingly decided that even if the sugar cane did not yield enough sugar, the Punjab Sugar Mills should not pay less to the grower and that the burden of paying more should be placed on the consumer.

The second point of my hon. Friend was that this Bill was reported on by the Select Committee in the last Budget Session and that there was no reason why it should not have become an Act during that very Session. My hon. Friend will remember that such a thing was not possible as the Session was suddenly prorogued owing to change of Ministry. After prorogation, Sardar Ujjal Singh was the Minister-in-Charge in the new Ministry. He desired that the subject of the Bill be split into two parts, one of which was to be entrusted to the Agricultural Department and the other to the Industries Department. He was asked not to do so but he would not agree. Any how Sardar Sahib did, not bring it into the House. After the October Session in which the Bill could have been passed if the Minister-in-Charge desired, the Ministry had changed. We at once consulted the Legal Remembrancer who pointed out some defects in the Select Committee Report. We remedied the defects and gave the Bill the shape of an Ordinance. In these circumstances it is absolutely wrong to blame us for any delay in this matter. As my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa has already told the House, it is this Ordinance which has been presented to the House in the form of a Bill as the Ordinance would otherwise lapse.

It has been remarked that perhaps action may not be taken even after the Bill has been passed. There should be no apprehensions on that account. I can assure the House that whosoever contravenes the provisions of the law will be properly dealt with. I may also here say a few words by way of explanation. When I said that Sardar Ujjal Singh wished to split the Bill in 2 parts I did not mean that he had any personal motive. It is quite possible that that was his honest opinion and was not calculated to benefit some friends. I do not believe in insinuations.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I wish to elicit information on one point. When Sardar Ujjal Singh felt it difficult to present this Bill for certain reasons, did the hon. Chief Minister, who was at

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that time Minister for Finance, also share that view? If he did not agree with Sardar Ujjal Singh, did he say that the Bill should have been passed at that time?

Chief Minister : I felt that the Bill should have been passed at that time and I said so.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Did the hon. Chief Minister express his view before other members of the Cabinet?

Chief Minister : Yes, I told about it to my colleagues.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Was not the hon. Chief Minister present in the party meeting?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member is bringing in party matters, which under the Rules he should not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : This is an instance of joint responsibility.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (Hindi) : From the Bill which is now before the House, it appears that something is going to be done for the benefit of peasants and growers. As my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh said there has been great delay in bringing it forward. It should have been enacted long ago. It makes no difference whether the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava or the hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar was responsible for this delay. From the point of view of peasants there is no difference between them.

Mr. Speaker : Both of them are representatives of the public.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : It is our misfortune that though the number of agriculturists is very large, they have not been able to get some one from amongst themselves as the Premier or the Chief Minister of the Punjab. This is the cause of their being treated in a step-motherly manner. In spite of the fact that there had been great demand for placing a Bill of this nature on the Statute Book, the Government did not bring it earlier. Whether the hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh or someone else was responsible for this delay, it makes no difference for us. So far as we are concerned all of them are chips of the same block.

Mr. Speaker : No such remarks, please.

Chief Minister : He is a privileged person.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Thank you for this epithet. Take the case of consolidation of holdings. The Government has not done it so far.

Mr. Speaker : This is not the stage for raising this point.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : In the end, I request the Government to enforce this Bill as early as possible.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend, Sardar Bachan Singh, said during the course of his speech that this Bill should have been brought forward much earlier. From the other side certain reasons have been given as to why it could not be presented earlier. I am sorry that certain things have been said during the course of discussion which it would have been better not to refer to. When this Bill was first introduced, I had the good fortune of serving this State as its Premier. The hon. the Chief Minister has stated that it could not be brought forward on the 18th October, as two hon. Ministers differed with regard to it. He said that one of them favoured its being split up in two parts while the other desired it to be passed as a single measure. I wish to submit for the information of the House that this was not the real position. It was decided with the concurrence of all hon. Ministers that the Bill should not be proceeded with in its existing form. No hon. Minister raised any objection at the time of arriving at that decision.

Chief Minister : Is the hon. Member entitled to say anything in regard to the Cabinet proceedings ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The Chief Minister has set up a precedent that cuts at the very root of joint responsibility.

Chief Minister : Can a Minister after relinquishing his office give out such things ? He was under the oath of secrecy when he was in office.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Bhim Sen Sachar is responsible for his own conduct and he does so at his own risk.

I was submitting, Sir, that this Bill could not be passed by the 18th October. May I ask why the same Ordinance which was issued by this Government in January, could not be promulgated earlier ?

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar

It would not be a convincing argument to say that the Law Officers had no time to do so. The Bill had already been discussed by the Select Committee and also in the Party meeting. If the Government wished to act in time, there is no reason why the Ordinance could not be issued in November. If the Government so desired, its Law Officers could work during day and night to prepare such an Ordinance.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Why could it not be done in September ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. When a Bill has been duly introduced in the House and referred to a Select Committee which submitted its report, is it open to the Government not to present that Report but to bring forward a different Bill ? Is it not a breach of rules to bring quite a new Bill instead of presenting the Report of the Select Committee previously appointed by this House ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I was myself doubtful about this matter when I came to know that another Bill on the same subject had been referred to a Select Committee. Although I am not quite certain, I think that the Government has a right to drop one measure and bring another instead.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I just draw your attention to Rule 104(1) which lays down —

The report of the Select Committee along with minutes of dissent, if any, shall be presented to the Assembly by the Member-in-Charge of the Bill ?

✓ My submission is that the Rule says that the report "shall be presented".

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** At this stage I am not concerned with the previous Bill. At the moment I am concerned with the Bill that is before the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The Rule that I have referred to says that the report 'shall' be presented, but the Government instead of presenting the report of the Select Committee has brought in another Bill.

Mr. Speaker : I do not know whether the provisions of the present Bill are the same as those of the previous Bill. For the present, the House is concerned with the Bill which has now been brought before it by the Government. When the previous Bill comes before the House I will see that the Rules are observed. This is a fresh Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of Order, Sir. May I know if this Bill is the same which was referred to the Select Committee for report?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the point of order is that when a Bill is referred to a Select Committee its report must be brought before the House. The present Bill resembles in name and purport the previous Bill. I want to know how is it that the Government is not placing the report of the Select Committee before the House.

Mr. Speaker : The Government can withdraw a Bill and bring in a new Bill if it likes.

Chief Minister : Sir, This Bill is based on the Ordinance promulgated by His Excellency the Governor and is different from the previous Bill. By this Bill it is sought to place the Ordinance on the Statute Book.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, there is a principle in this Bill which seeks to empower Government to levy tax on the sugarcane which is brought in a local area. So long as this principle is not clarified and the intentions of the Government not made known to the House, it is difficult to accept it. If the purpose of this clause is to levy tax on the sugar cane which would be brought into the limits of a Municipal Committee or a Notified Area Committee from the village by the zamindars, it would be a grave injustice to them. If the purpose is to levy this tax on the sugar cane brought into the State from other States such as PEPSU, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, the matter can be considered. But I am not sure whether our Government is competent to levy a tax on the inter provincial movement of goods. The Government should clarify this point. If the purpose is to levy tax on the sugarcane coming from outside into the State, it can create repercussions elsewhere. Unless the

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legal implications of this point are clarified by the Government after consulting its legal advisers, it is difficult to accept this Bill. If, on the other hand, the purpose is to tax the sugar-cane brought into a notified area by the growers of our own State, it is nothing but an injustice to them. I don't know whether we have any factory other than the one at Jagadhri, in our State. But I know that there are two sugar-factories in the PEPSU, one at Phagwara and the other at Hamira which are fed by our districts such as Jullundur. If the Government wants to tax the sugar cane brought from PEPSU for the sugar factory at Jagadhri, the natural result would be that the PEPSU Government would impose a similar tax on the sugar-cane which goes from Jullundur District to Hamira and Phagwara. It is difficult to accept this Bill unless the matter is clarified.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing south East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, one of the principles of this Bill is that no new factories can be started without getting licence from the Government. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government to article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution. It lays down :—

“All citizens shall have the right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business”.

There is a proviso to this Article which lays down :—

- (6) Nothing in sub-clause (g) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it imposes, or prevent the State from making any law imposing, in the interests of the general public, reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause, and, in particular, nothing in the said sub-clause shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it prescribes or empowers any authority to prescribe, or prevent the State from making any law prescribing or empowering any authority to prescribe, the professional or technical qualifications necessary for practising any profession or carrying on any occupation, trade or business.

Keeping in view the intention of this Article I should say that such restrictions are, in fact, against the spirit of the fundamental rights provided in the constitution. In the Article only the general principles are stated. In their application, however, whether it is the case of a poor farmer or that of an industrialist or factory owner, equal and proper treatment should be accorded to all. Rights of every one

should be protected. Regarding the licence which is required to be obtained in this case my submission is that under the Constitution the Government has no right to act in the manner it intends to. Suppose, for instance, that someone wants to start a sugar factory. He will have to sink a large capital in it. With what confidence will he start the undertaking when he is not sure whether his licence will be renewed or not? It is just possible that the Government of the day might make an improper use of its authority and refuse to renew the license to him. Under such circumstances, new enterprises will be discouraged and industry will not flourish. It has already been pointed out that at present the sugar industry in Punjab is in its infancy. There is only one sugar factory. If such restrictions are placed, even that factory might close down. Industry cannot flourish where there are restrictions. Most of the capital has already gone out of the State to Delhi, U. P. and other States. Industrial development of the State is useful not only to the urban classes but also to the farmers, who also stand to gain if the prices of articles of daily use fall as a result of increased production. The wealth of the State as a whole increases. Every section of the population should feel the anxiety for the well-being and progress of the State. I strongly feel that such conditions should be created in which industrialists may be encouraged to work here. If nothing is done by way of attracting the industrialists they will be inclined to move on to Pepsu or other States of India where conditions might be favourable to them. By imposing taxes and placing other restrictions we will be checking our own progress. Our cane growers will be attracted by the neighbouring States.

An hon. Member : The restrictions in the neighbouring States are even more severe.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : But even then restrictions placed here will have their effect upon the total quantity of cane. This will have an adverse effect upon the sugar industry in the Punjab which is yet in a state of infancy. But even if we leave that point of view aside for a moment, these restrictions are against the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Government has no right to place these restrictions. It is feared that the powers we are putting in the hands of the Government might not be exercised in a proper and just manner. The industrialists are in a minority, and what they expect from the majority is fairness and justice. They wish to work to increase the collective wealth of this State. We hope the majority will be fair in its dealings with this class of people.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, rural), (*Hindi*) :
Sir, I wish to support Shri Behari Lal Chanana's contention that the progress of our State depends upon giving a free hand to industry. So, I oppose the clause of this Bill which seeks to impose restrictions on the sugar industry.

Mr. Speaker : I think it would be better if the hon. Member opposes the clause when I put it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, I find that this Bill contains good as well as bad provisions. My first submission is that industry should be given a free hand. Otherwise how will the industrialists spend large sums on setting up factories if they are uncertain or even doubtful of their future? They cannot go on spending without thinking of what they are going to get in return. If they find restrictions and uncertain conditions prevailing in the State they will think twice before sinking their capital. They will consider it advisable to go to Pepsu or any other State in the neighbourhood rather than remain in Punjab and suffer. It is a matter of common sense. In the State of Punjab we find that the Government is needlessly interfering in private enterprises and in liberty of action in matters of trade and business. Nothing is allowed to be done without the previous permission of the Government. This state of affairs should be put an end to. If all restrictions are removed it will go a long way in helping the traders and business men to increase the wealth of the State. The factory owners are not alone to gain by this. Labourers and farmers will also derive advantages. In our villages, for example, the poor farmers take advantage of the sugar factory in their neighbourhood and they sow as much of sugar cane as they can. In Sonapat those who sow five or seven bighas get sufficient profits in return and they are quite happy. So I think all facilities should be given and in order to achieve this end, this clause should be deleted.

The second point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is the clause relating to the new cess. As a matter of fact, the poor farmer is already burdened with various taxes like 'Abiana', 'Malguzari and Rah Dari' which he has to pay to the Municipal Committee. The addition of this cess of twelve pies per maund will be another burden on the cane-grower. Sometimes if he cannot bring cane to the factory on a cart, he has to pay the additional heavy expenses of a truck. What profit can he expect to get after all this drain on his income? We should see that he is not overburdened.

In my opinion twelve pies per maund will be the last straw to break his back. So we should better delete this clause, Why should we impose this cess on the farmers? Their condition is already bad. When the Sales Tax was levied there was a hue and cry. But in this case no voice has been raised against this cess. Why is it so? The poor farmer works till late at night. He rises early in the morning when others are yet in their warm beds. He works hard at the sugar-cane fields. He takes them to the factory which is generally at a great distance from his village. He bears the jerks and jolts on the road. He remains waiting for hours at the gates of the factory. When after all this trouble he gets the meagre reward for his season's labour, our Government steps in to demand its share. Cane-grower is the man who tries to remove the shortage of sugar. But our Government does not allow him to have his little reward for his services.

I fail to understand how the hon. Minister can justify the levy of this cess. Where is the sense in overburdening the zamindars who are already crushed under the weight of so many taxes? They are already sore on the alleged increase in the water rates. Now this cess is being thrust down the throats of cane-growers. When we ask the Government to provide ordinary amenities of life to the zamindars, then the plea of financial stringency is put forth. It is common knowledge that the zamindar is illiterate and is living under insanitary conditions. When it is requested to Government that primary schools be opened in the villages and arrangements for the provision of medical relief be made by setting up hospitals etc., then my hon. Friend Shri Prithvi Singh Azad gets up and pleads inability of the Government in the matter for want of funds. But Government is ever ready to impose taxes on the zamindar without caring to see whether he gets full return for the taxes he pays. We were under the impression that when the Congress Government comes into power, the burden of taxation on the zamindars would be reduced. But things are going the other way round. I think the old Unionist Government was much better than the present Congress Government. (*Laughter*)

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*): Sir, no sooner was the motion for the consideration of this Bill made on the floor of the House, than acrimonious discussion was started from a certain quarter as to who was responsible for the delay in bringing forward this measure. This was a meaningless point and there seemed to be no need for raising it. It will however be admitted that there was a pressing need for such a

[Minister for development]

measure and it should have come before the House much earlier. As a matter of fact there were certain serious doubts which had arisen in connection with the Bill and unless they were removed, it could not be brought before the House. That is why some delay was caused. Besides, the provisions of the Bill were thoroughly discussed by the two departments connected with it and after due deliberations when there was complete unanimity of opinion on them, the measure was brought forward in the House. So far as the need of this measure is concerned, there can be no two opinions about it. The zamindar has not been getting a fair deal from the factory owner. He has never been paid the fair or proper price for his sugarcane by the factory-owners who had always the upper hand in the matter. The poor zamindar would take his sugar cane produce at the door of the factory owner, but the latter would higggle and try to pay as much less a price as possible, by putting forward frivolous pretexts like the one that he did not require an inferior type of sugar-cane brought by the zamindar. The zamindar who had come to the door of the factory owner and had no other market near about, finds himself at a disadvantage and is thus compelled to accept the terms offered by the factory owner. Government is fully alive to this state of affairs and seeks to solve the difficulties of the zamindar through this measure.

Then, Sir, some of my hon. Friends raised the objection that this Bill is *ultra vires* of this Legislature in view of certain provisions in the chapter of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution of India. I may tell the House that every aspect of the matter was thoroughly examined by our legal advisers and we are satisfied that this Bill is in order.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : May I know whether all the restrictions in the form of licences etc., which are sought to be put on the factory owners, have been examined ?

Minister for Development : We are not oblivious of that fact. Well, Sir, although sugar-cane is not largely produced in the Punjab, yet the factory owners try to add to the difficulties of the cane growers. The zamindars are always at their mercy. But still there is not a single provision in the Bill which unjustifiably militates against the factory owners. We have tried to administer even-handed justice to them as well as to the zamindars. I am, therefore, of the opinion, that if the factory owners conform to the rules framed under the law, they would not find themselves in hot waters. They would not experience the least difficulty in obtaining or renewing his licence. As a matter of fact the

provisions in the Bill are intended to check the evil intentions of certain factory owners who try to fleece the cane-grower by forcing him to sell his commodity at a lower price. Government cannot tolerate that the zamindar produces sugar cane with the sweat of his brow, who should not be able to obtain a fair return.

Then so far as the cess is concerned, it is not necessarily going to be realised from the zamindar alone, it can be charged from the factory owners also. The object of this cess is to procure money for the improvement of sugar cane seeds and provision of good road and in rural areas so that the sugar cane be brought to the factory without any difficulty by the zamindar. I assure the House that the proceeds of the cess to be imposed will be spent for the welfare of the cane-growers and for improving the quality of their sugar-cane.

12 noon

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Does this mean that the hon. Minister will continue occupying his seat on the Treasury Bench? His verbal assurance in this behalf will not do.

Minister for Develment : Any person who will occupy this seat here will know at least the purpose for which the proposed cess would be utilized. How the cess would be levied and the purpose for which it would be utilized, is crystal clear from the provision of the Bill.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I would request the hon. Minister to go through the provision with a view to finding the actual position.

Minister for Develment : I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Member that Government would impose this cess after consulting the Sugar Control Board to be established and constituted by it. The imposition of this cess would entirely depend upon the decision of the Board. I really fail to understand the justification of the hon. Members in opposing the Bill now before the House.

They have not taken any pains to bring in any amendment if it was their desire to make certain changes in the Bill. If they had done, so, I am sure Government would have considered their amendments and thus tried to accommodate them as far as could be possible.

It has been said that the proposed Bill has been long over due and the earlier it is passed into law, the better would it be. However I wish to make this point clear that we are very keen not to waste any time in placing this measure on the Statute Book. With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Members to support the Bill regarding the passage of Bill.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Bill has been recommended by the Governor because under Section 35, a tax is being levied ?

Minister for Development : It is not necessary that the cess will be levied, Government may or may not do so.

Mr. Speaker : All the same we are giving power to the Government to levy a cess and I am not going to put this clause to the vote of the House till I know that the Bill has been recommended by the Governor.

Minister for Development : Sir, the Bill has been recommended by the Governor.

Mr. Speaker : Question is--

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is--

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 to 34.

Mr. Speaker : Question is--

That clauses 2 to 34 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 35.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I have given my anxious consideration to the provisions of Clause 35. I have no hesitation in saying that I stick to the position which I voiced when the principle of the Bill was under discussion. The hon. Minister-in-charge of the Bill was pleased to say that the power which has been given under clause 35 is discretionary. My submission is that whether that power is discretionary or not, the power to levy a cess is there and if the levying of cess is objectionable, then the mere giving of that power is a sufficient mischief which has got to be prevented. It has been laid down that the cess will be imposed after consultation with the Board but the scheme of the Bill indicates that the Board will be a nominated body and it will be very difficult for a body nominated by the Government to say 'no' to any proposal which the Government may put forward for levying a cess. The power of levying a cess and for the matter of that for any taxation proposal must be regulated by certain set principles and it would be very unwise to give such a power to a body which has been created by the Government by nomination to advise it on any taxation proposal. The use of the word "may" in sub-clause (I) of clause 35 is a usual form in which such proposals are drafted by the drafting agencies and this use of "may" is not discretionary in the sense in which the hon. Minister has understood it and as a matter of fact power has been given to the Government for the imposition of a cess and I strongly oppose the imposition of a cess of this character.

One thing I have not been able to understand and that is how the imposition of this cess can in any way be regarded as in the interest of the grower. There is a provision in the clause itself that the responsibility of paying that cess will be upon the seller. I had an informal discussion with the hon. Chief Minister on this point and he was pleased to say that what was envisaged by the provision of clause 35 was to ensure that no cut throat competition was brought into play and if a person were to try to sell at a lower rate from a place outside the State of Punjab, by the imposition of the cess the cut throat competition would probably be got rid of. But, Sir, I think that the phraseology of the clause as it stands cannot help the Government if that is their intention. In the first place, I am not in favour of having in Government's mind any idea of imposing a cess on a grower

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

outside the State of Punjab if he brings his cane inside our State. Sub-clause (4) lays down—

All sums payable in accordance with sub-section (1) or (2) or the rules made under sub-section (3) shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue.

So presumably the person sought to be hit by this cess is not a grower from U. P. or Pepsu or Himachal Pradesh because we have not got any power to realise any sums as arrears of land revenue from people who are not residents of our own State. My submission, therefore, is that the clause as it stands will be prejudicial to our own grower and the phraseology of the clause does not clarify that the intention is not to hit the grower who has grown his cane inside the State of Punjab. Under the circumstances I do not at all feel convinced by an informal assurance given by the Chief Minister and the clause would certainly go against the interest of our own growers. The Government may get certain sums of money by way of this taxation but they cannot befooled this hon. House into a belief that this cess is being imposed with a view to helping the grower to save him from cut throat competition. The object of fixing the prices of sugar cane under the scheme of the Bill is no doubt to protect the grower but the imposition of a cess is something which is contrary to the very spirit of the Bill and is certainly not in the interest of the grower.

Then, I fail to understand as to why even this cess is sought to be imposed upon the grower when the intention, they say, is to save the grower and help him. The grower himself has been made liable to pay this cess. In sub-clause (3) there is a provision that—

If any agreement for the sale of cane is entered into before the imposition of a cess under this section, the seller will be entitled to recover from the buyer in addition to, and as a part of, the contracted price, the amount of such cess to which the seller may be liable.

Therefore the principal liability under the scheme of the Bill to pay this cess is of the seller even though there is a provision that the seller will be entitled to recover from the buyer. Here it is important to note in this connection that the buyer in this case is going to be the factory owner. The condition of the seller that is the grower has been so graphically depicted on the floor of the House, just a little while ago, by Chaudhri Lahri Singh. The

person on a shivering morning will bring his produce in his gadda to the gates of the factory. He will be stopped by an officer of the Government who is to charge him this cess. Then the collection of this cess is going to be a very cumbersome process. Government will have to arrange for a weighing machine or arrange with the factory. The Government officer will charge him the necessary amount. The farmer who has come to sell his produce will have to bring some money in his pocket from his house so that the Government cess may be paid. First he will have to pay from his own pocket and then under the provision of the Bill he will be entitled to recover this amount from the buyer the mill owner. This cess is liable to be recovered from the seller as arrears of land revenue. But how is he to recover from the factory perhaps by the simple process of a civil suit because to my mind there is no other remedy provided for him. Does the Government expect small farmers to go to the Civil Courts and sue the factory owners for recovering from them small amounts say fourteen annas and three pies. On carefully scrutinising the clause one is irresistably lead to the conclusion that the framers have not clearly understood the implication of the provision. I, therefore, strongly oppose the retention of this clause in the Bill and I hope the House will accept my contention and vote down this clause. (*cheers*).

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, I think there is some confusion in the minds of some hon. Members about the meaning of the term 'local area' as it is used in clause 35 of the Bill under consideration. The meaning of 'local area' in clause 35 is no more and no less than the factory area as defined in clause 23, which reads.

The Cane Commissioner may after consulting the Advisory Committee or Committees (if any) of the area concerned _____ issue an order declaring any area to be an assigned area for the purpose of the supply of cane to a particular factory.

But this has not been made clear. If in clause 35, it were laid down, that the cess will be levied on 'the entry of such sugar cane into the assigned area' it would have been understandable and we would not have taken exception to it. Now, the use of the term 'local area' instead of 'assigned area' in clause 35, will prove very injurious to the interests of the peasants. It will be interpreted in such a manner that the movement of sugar cane from one place to another would become impossible. Whenever the cane is brought to a town from the rural areas, it will be said to have entered

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a local area and it will become taxable. Once this measure is enacted, Courts would be free to interpret it in their own way. They would not try to ascertain the intention of the framers. They would interpret the words as they are and attach to them the meaning which is generally applied to them. The object of inserting this term 'local area' will not be understood to mean that tax is leviable on sugar cane imported from outside. No Government can hold out promises in a democratic State. Ministers come and Ministers go. Who will then fulfil the promises? The Maharaja of Patiala, before he became a Rajpramukh, could give a more or less abiding promise but not any of our Ministers.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Chaudhri Sahib's promises still remain unredeemed.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : So, promise is meaningless. The proposed clause vests powers in the Government to levy the cess. Every zamindar who brings cane to the factory will be asked to pay it at the rate of 12 pies per maund. This will result in a great hardship. The Government would be really doing something good and beneficial for the peasants, if it agrees to the deletion of clause 35. Moreover, it has not been specified as to how and for what purpose will the money thus realized be utilized. Will it be spent on the education of the rural people or for providing them any other facilities? No such assurance has been given. I oppose the levying of this cess. The rural people are already burdened with taxes. It is they who contribute the maximum to the Government revenues. They are paying in the form of land revenue, local rate, chowkidara and abiana. No local rate is being levied in towns. Well-to-do people sleep in comfort in their homes while the policemen look after the safety of their houses, but no 'chowkidara' is charged from them. How long is it proposed to use the ruralites as the milch cow? Abiana is already being increased. Now it is proposed to levy another cess on them.

Shri Virendra : How is it that the hon. Member considers himself a ruralite?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : All my relations live in villages. My brothers, my wife and all other relatives belong to rural areas. And I would not marry my sons in Delhi. They will get wives from villages. I have the fullest sympathy for the villagers. This is not a question of party discipline. It is a question of great importance for the growers. I would request the Government to spare them from this tax.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division, Land-holders) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have risen to oppose clause 35. I am really surprised that neither Chaudhri Suraj Mal, who considers himself to be a champion of the peasants, nor Sardar Bachan Singh, has in his speech referred to a vital aspect of this matter to which I am going to refer. It appears that in their anxiety to criticize the Government whenever they can get an opportunity, they often fail to see the real importance of the issues and beat about the bush.

Mr. Speaker: No reflections on any Member, please.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: I think that the rate of cess to be imposed under clause 35 of the Bill is excessive and will be a great burden on the poor zamindars. Supposing if one acre of land yields 500 maunds of sugar-cane, the zamindar will have to pay Rs. 35 as a tax to the Government. The amount of tax so realised may aggregate to lacs rather crores of rupees which will be a heavy burden upon poor zamindars. I am not aware if such a tax is levied in any other province; and if it is so, Government should refrain from making it a permanent feature in our province. Our sugar industry is still in its infancy and such a cess if imposed will have a detrimental effect on its development. If the Government is under the impression that zamindars earn big profits in the sale of sugar-cane I would say that it is sadly mistaken. The cost of production of sugar-cane is so much that it leaves a very small margin of profit to zamindars. Wheat, toria and other crops can be sown twice a year and these crops no doubt yield profit to zamindars. If this clause is allowed to stand part of the Bill and the cess is imposed, the result would be that there will be no impetus for the zamindar to grow sugar cane which will adversely affect the sugar industry. I would, therefore, submit that clause 35 of the Bill may be deleted.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) (*Punjabi*): Sir, whenever any taxation proposal is brought forward by the Government in the House, it is always opposed because such opposition by the Members gives an opportunity to them to win cheap popularity. By making such a provision in the Bill it is highly improper to draw a conclusion that the Government is indifferent to the welfare of zamindars. I may inform the House that such a cess will not be imposed by the Government of its own accord but it will do so with the consultation of Sugar Control Board. It is true that the Board will consist of members to be nominated by the Government but the persons of all

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interests will be represented therein. Moreover, it is not essential that the Board may impose a cess at the rate of 12 pies a maund but it may be 2 pies a maund. The hon. Members may rest assured that the money realised from the cess would not be spent on street lighting in the towns or on medical aid for the city people. This money would be used only for improving the quality and quantity of sugar cane by good seeds. On account of the inadequacy of finance, the Government can ill-afford to spend any money for the development of this industry and to provide all facilities to the cane-growers. This money will be utilised on the preservation of sugar cane which can last for six years by improved methods. The improved quality of seed will increase the output of sugar cane and the benefit to the zamindar will be out of all proportion to the amount paid as cess.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : What about this hardships throughout the year? No consideration for that?

Sardar Swaran Singh : This is the lot to which he is condemned.

Minister for Rehabilitation: Apart from this, it is wrong to presume that the burden of this cess will fall on the zamindars only but the factory owners will also be liable to pay this amount.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : You should then make it clear in the Bill.

Minister for Rehabilitation: Sir, I may assure the hon. Members that this money would be used for providing better roads for the villagers and particularly the approach roads to the sugar factories will be metalled. Now the way in which sugar cane is brought to the sugar factories is most unsatisfactory. There is no gainsaying the fact that the bullocks which may have to pull the cart on the metalled road would live longer and healthier than those who may have to work on Kacha roads. A metalled road will thus provide great facilities to the cane grower.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it not the duty of the Government to make metalled roads without levying this tax?

Minister for Rehabilitation: If this is done the cane growers will difficulty in bringing sugar cane from their villages to mandies and from that place to the sugar factories. As a medical man I know it for certain that the life of a bullock which pulls the cart on the kacha road is cut short. I am also conscious of the fact that it is the duty of the Government to reconstruct such roads which are not worth using by the public but I think it will not be possible for the Government to do so in the near future on account of limited finances. If the money realised as a cess is utilised to provide amenities to the cane growers, it will give them immeasurable relief. So keeping in view the interests of zamindars, I would say that if the work of reconstructing roads is delayed for two or three years, it will entail great loss to them. The hon. Members who vehemently support the cause of zamindars should look to the other provinces where such a tax is already being levied.

I will ask the House kindly to look at the facilities which exist in provinces which have developed this sugar industry. In those provinces shades have been built for use of bullocks of the kisans who bring sugar cane to the factories. Hon. Member can by themselves imagine the trouble that is caused to bullocks by standing in the sun. As a doctor I am in a position to say that such a discomfort reduces the life of an animal.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: But the hon. Minister is not supposed to be a Veterinary Doctor.

Minister: That is true, I treat not animals but men like my hon. Friends. However, it will be admitted that in many cases same principles apply to men as well as animals. The hon. Member, I hope will agree, that if in summer one man stands in the sun and another in shade, there must be some difference in their physical state, say after an hour's time. I am in a position to inform my hon. Friends who say that they are sympathisers of the kisans that I have studied conditions in U. P. and C. P. before as well as after the development of sugar industry. From my personal observation I can say that the Control Board and the imposition of a cess have helped the growers a good deal. Before the imposition of cess there were no sheds for animals or any water for them to drink. The kisans had no place for staying and had to spend for this. But the cess brought them

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

comforts and amenities. The same state of affairs can be brought about here in this State if the friends and sympathisers of kisans agree to it. It is true that by refusing this cess to Government they may be able to effect a small gain for the kisans but it will not prove a wise policy. On the other hand I can assure them that if they do not object to a cess of 12 pies a maund it will help kisans grow better quality of sugar cane and in place of 12 pies they will get 12 annas or may be a rupee per maund.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, today I am immensely pleased to find that my hon. Friends are trying to understand the point of view of the zamindar and are giving him the right lead. I very much appreciate the spirit in which they have sought to safeguard his interests. When I got up to speak on the Bill at an earlier stage, my hon. Friend, Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann, pointed out that I should deal with this item but I purposely refrained from discussing it as I wanted to do full justice to it at the proper time, i.e., when this clause came up for discussion.

Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Sethi, has rightly remarked that there must be opposition to imposition of any kind of tax. But let us for a moment see whether the imposition of this particular tax is fair. It has been said by some hon. Members that this step is being taken in the interest of the kisan and he will stand to benefit by it. I have great apprehensions. Never was a tax imposed on the zamindar, utilized for his good and a lion's share went to help those who did not contribute much. I would be the last man to object to a tax in case it was spent on giving facilities to those from whom it was realized. If the Government sets up any such principle we will surely agree to it. However our past experience shows just the contrary. Here it will not be out of place if I illustrate my point. The ruralites and the zamindars mostly pay for the expenditure incurred on building pucca tarred roads but they are not allowed to ply their carts on them. They are always forced to go on katcha tracks ear marked for them by the side of the road. Only the urbanites have a right or a privilege of running their tongas and motor cars on them. What the ruralite gets in return for his contribution of taxes is a volley of abuse from the occupants of tongas and motor cars when they pass by his slow moving cart.

It has been said that this tax will go towards improving the quality of sugar cane. I wonder how such a thing will come to pass. If our Agriculture Department which is considered to be second to none in the country, has failed to bring about any improvement, this tax also will not prove to be of any avail. All this talk of improving quality is nothing but tom foolery and is absolutely devoid of any sense. I remember the times when Marketing Committees were set up and a tax was levied saying that the amount so raised will be spent for providing facilities to those who bring commodities to the markets. It was promised that sheds would be built, taps would be installed and perhaps heaven would be brought on earth for the zamindars. It was all an empty talk.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : That was the work of your zamindara Government.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : These sardonic remarks of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh cannot undo the achievements of the zamindara Government. To-day the public as also the public men realize that that Government set up standards for the future Governments in the realm of administration and legislation (*Some hon. Members :* Yes, it was a toady Government). A Government will not become toady if it is dubbed so. Governments are judged by their actions and that Government rendered valuable service to its people.

This was only by the way. I was submitting, Sir, that the Marketing Committees had collected huge sums of money. Most of it is spent on their establishments but the huge amounts which they have with them are not being spent for the betterment of villagers, who bring their produce to the markets. The Government has not instructed these committees as to how they should spend the money which they possessed. Either it is being taken away by the Government in the form of loans or it has been contributed to Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Fund. At the time of realising money people were told that it would be spent for their betterment but all these were false promises. If the Government proposes to build pucca roads or do some other thing for the benefit of the producers, it is not essential that the money required for execution of these schemes, should be realised from them alone. We have never heard the Government say

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

that they wished to levy a cess on the factory owners as they desired to do certain things for their advantage. If there was any policy which the Government had consistently followed, it was this that the taxes on the poor villagers and zamindars were being constantly increased, while those on the urbanites and the rich were being decreased. My zamindar friends, who are sitting in this House, feel that great injustice is being done to them. I can't say, how long it would be possible to bear it. We are told that the money realised by the levy of this cess would be used for the benefit of the growers. As my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh said, if the local taxes already levied have not been used for the benefit of those for whom these were said to be intended, what guarantee is there that the proposed cess would be used for the advantage of the producers. If this amount is to be definitely used for a certain purpose, why has no rule or provision been made in this Bill that it would be used for that purpose only.

Another thing which I wish to point out is this that the hon. Minister-in-charge stated that it was not essential that the cess would be levied on the growers only. From the wording of the clause, however, it would be noticed that its burden would fall on none except the growers and the sellers. I am in full agreement with what my hon. Friend Sardar Jagjit Singh said about the production of sugar cane. This is the most difficult of all crops. The agricultural operations which the growers of sugar cane have to perform in the hot month of Bhadon, entail greater hardship than even going to jail for six months. Everybody can realise, Sir, how difficult it is to stand in the sun for even one day in the month of Bhadon.

Minister for Rehabilitation: The hon. Member has neither the experience of growing sugar cane nor of going to jail.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: I am told that I have not experienced either of the two. Does going to jail for a few days.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : My hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh says that I have experience of neither going to jail nor of growing sugar cane. I wish to tell him that I am the son of a zamindar who cultivated land for seventy five years. All my kith and kin are engaged in cultivation of sugar cane. I have greater experience of this work than the hon. Minister and know the difficulties of cultivators much better.

Mr. Speaker : I know a good deal about it.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : It would be said about you also, Sir, that you only know the work of a Speaker or how to practise law. What sympathy has the Government got for the zamindars? They cannot even imagine their conditions. My hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh has all along been living comfortably in palatial buildings and sitting under electric fans has been feeling the pulses of patients. He should think well before interrupting others and should not believe that he would not be replied. We know how to answer tit for tat. When criticising others, he should realise that they can also hit back.

I strongly oppose the imposition of the proposed cess on the zamindars who have to undergo great hardship in producing sugar cane for the benefit of factory owners. I shall also request my other zamindar friends in this House to oppose it, because by not doing so they would be betraying the interests of their constituents. We should not keep watching as silent spectators, when a tax which will break the back-bone of sugar cane growers is proposed to be levied.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, after hearing the speeches made in this House today, I am reminded of the saying—

न सूत न कपास कोरी से लट्ठम लट्ठा ।

ना सूत ना कपास कोरी से लठ्ठम लठ्ठा ।

What I mean to say is that the real facts are being completely ignored.

With your permission, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the hon. Members to clause 35 of the Bill, which reads thus :—

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

- (1) The Government may, after consulting the Board, by notification, impose a cess not exceeding twelve pies a maund on the entry of sugar cane into a local area, specified in such notification for consumption, use or sale therein :

For understanding the meaning of the term 'local area' we should go to clause 18, which lays down—

- (1) The Cane-Commissioner may after consulting the advisory Committee or Committees, if any, of the area concerned and the occupier of the factory and after considering any objection that may be raised, issue an order declaring any area to be reserved area for the purposes of the supply of cane to a particular factory during a particular crushing season or seasons and may likewise at any time cancel such order or alter the boundaries of an area so reserved.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Local area is not defined anywhere. It is still to be defined.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Though reserved area is not local area, these denote one and the same thing.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Local area is yet to be defined.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I was submitting, Sir; that firstly 'local area' would be defined for certain purposes. If it is considered that the local area so determined should be the whole of Punjab State, the whole State might become that local area. The sugarcane produced in that area will be exempted from the levy of cess proposed in the Bill. Only that sugar-cane would be taxed which would be brought into the local area from outside. The words, "on entry into the local area" mean that the sugar-cane would be taxed on entry into the local area. (*Interruptions*). I am giving my view; the hon. Members can, of course, controvert it. If the Government agrees with my interpretation, the question of levying any cess on the sugar-cane of our State does not arise. This cess is to be levied on the cane brought into the local area from outside. I am told by the hon. Minister that is not the intention of the Government. But the clause as it stands, can be interpreted to mean the whole of Punjab as the local area.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram (Hissar North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have stood up to speak in favour of clause 35 (*noise*). My view is that the hon. Members if they had any objection to the Bill, should have sent amendments for that purpose. But so far no amendment has been moved.

Sardar Swaran Singh: On a point of order, Sir. With regard to the deletion of the clause, your office tells me that I cannot move such an amendment but can oppose the clause as a whole. If that be the case, there is no amendment before the House.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram: I am in favour of the imposition of the cess on sugarcane, provided cane growers are to be allowed to use the roads exclusively for their carts. If other people have also to use the roads, the same amount of cess should be contributed by the Government itself.

The hon. Minister for Rehabilitation has made some fallacious remarks regarding matters which he should have known better as a medical man. You, Sir, yourself know that the health of the farmer who works in the sun, is far better than the factory worker. So the sun, instead of doing harm to health, improves it. Secondly he has said something about the life of the bullocks working on roads. I may inform him from personal experience that the bullock drawing carts on roads meets his death earlier than otherwise. I, therefore, submit that, if the Government wants to levy this cess on sugarcane, it should levy a similar tax on other people who use the roads. Thus all who use roads should be equally taxed. If only the cane growers are to be taxed they should be allowed to use the roads exclusively. This defect along with others should be removed.

Next I want to draw the attention of the Government to another hardship experienced by the cane growers. They have to wait along with their loaded carts for days and days outside the gate of the factory and thus they have to put up with all sorts of degradation. If the Government wants to levy this cess on the cane growers it is its duty to see that their hardships are removed.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I think a lot has been said on this Bill. I am afraid some of my hon. Friends who have sought to sympathise with the agriculturists have actually gone against his interests.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : That shows difference of understanding.

[1 P.M.] **Minister for Development :** I may point out that the condition of the canegrowers in the States where this cess has been levied, has greatly improved. Along with this, the percentage of sugar has also increased as compared with our State. In U. P. the factory owners pay Rs. 1-11-0 per maund and the cess levied is annas 3 per maund while here the price of sugar varies from Rs. 1, annas 5 to Re. 1 annas 7 per maund. There the percentage of sugar is ten or eleven. Here it is not more than seven or eight.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : That depends upon soil and rainfall.

Minister for Development : That is also true to some extent. But the major factor is that they have carried on experiments with sugar cane and by new scientific methods they have evolved a better type and have increased its sugar percentage. We can also do the same. As far as the incidence of this cess is concerned it is not necessary that it may fall upon the seller. Clause 36 (2) (w) of the Bill says :—

Such rules shall provide :—

The amount of the tax or cess imposed under section 35, and the authority by which the person from whom, and the manner in which such a tax or cess shall be collected.

It is for the Rule to provide as to who is to pay the cess. It is wrong to anticipate that the cess will necessarily be charged from the sugar cane sellers. Our object is to develop the production of sugar cane. But if the House feels that there should be no cess we are prepared to revise the decision.

(At this stage the hon. Chief Minister rose to speak).

Sardar Baohan Singh : On a point of order, Sir, can a Member rise to make a speech when another member is speaking ?

Minister for Development : Sir, I have given way.

Chief Minister : Sir, I wish to submit that the Government of India fixes the price of sugar. It fixed the sugar prices as well as the price at which the cane grower is to supply the cane to the factory. For instance the price at which the cane grower supplies cane to the factory is Rs 1-11-0. After adding the cess of one anna the price of cane becomes Rs. 1-12-0. Thus it is the owner of the factory upon whom the incidence of the cess falls and not the cane grower. The amount of the cess is utilised for the benefit of the cane grower. In Abdullapore for example, the condition of the roads is not satisfactory with the result that the cane growers are put to a lot of inconvenience and trouble specially in the rainy season. With the money made available by the cess improvements in these roads can be carried out and the yield of sugar cane can be increased by other means. Such expenditure for the benefit of the cane growers is to be met out of the cess.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I ask the hon. Speaker if a Member can stand up and begin to speak when another member is in possession of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister has given way so that the hon. the Chief Minister may explain something.

Chief Minister : Under the Rules I can say something when the hon. Minister has given way. I am a Member of this House and was a member of the Legislative Assembly in the united Punjab also and thus know the Rules well.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : This is a regular speech.

Mr. Speaker : May I know if the hon. Minister for Development has finished his speech ?

Minister for Development: No, Sir.
(The hon. the Chief Minister was still on his legs).

Voices : Order, order.

Chief Minister : I know the Rules better.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Then act on them.

Minister for Development : I was submitting that the proceeds of this cess would be entirely spent on the development of sugar cane variety and for providing other facilities to the cane growers. In this connection I may point out that the Government tried to fix the price of the sugar-cane at Rs. 1-14-0 per maund but the factory owner would not agree to pay it on the plea that Punjab sugar-cane did not contain that percentage of sugar as was present in the U. P. sugar cane. Then the price was put at Rs. 1-13-0 per maund, but still the factory owner was not agreeable to purchase sugar-cane at this price. Then it was reduced to Rs. 1-10-0 per maund, yet the factory owner pressed for further reduction in it and refused to buy the sugar-cane. This made the Government give their most serious leading consideration to the matter of fair price, which they are anxious that the zamindars should receive. But at the same time Government have no desire to force the factory owners to purchase a commodity which is much below the standard. So whereas we propose to fix the price of the sugar cane by law, we also propose to levy a cess, the proceeds of which would be utilised for the improvement of the quality of sugar-cane and building of road to facilitate the transporation of sugar-cane to the factories. Then a mention has been made of Abdullapur Sugar Factory. I may tell the House that the road to that factory has been built by them in consultation with the District Board Ambala, and with the money that was made available by them for the purpose. This was by the way. What I wanted to drive at was that imposition of cess was essential and in the best interests of the sugar cane growers. But I find that there is a strong feeling in the House against the levy of this cess. I have no objection to the withdrawal of the clause if that is the sense of the House.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The consensus of opinion is in favour of the deletion of the clause.

Minister for Development : If that be the desire of the House, I withdraw this clause, seeking to impose cess on cane growers (*Loud applause*).

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clause 35 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was lost

Clause 36.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, I move—

That sub-part (w) of sub-clause (2) be omitted and part (x) be renumbered as (w).

This is only a consequential amendment in view of the fact that clause 35 has been deleted by the House.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 37.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 37 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1.

Sub-clause (I).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill, as amended, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill, as amended, be passed.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, when this Bill was under discussion in the House, the hon. Minister-in-charge of the Bill remarked that the Punjab sugar-cane was inferior in quality as compared with that grown outside this State. Now when it is going through its final reading, I would like to impress upon the Government that the House expects that at the time of framing rules the government would see that the improvement of sugar-cane varieties is duly kept in view and that it is brought to the same standard as is obtained in Uttar Pradesh. (*Interruption*) It I may point out that if the hon. Ministers want to say something in this connection, they should rise in their seats and I would be glad to give way. Well, Sir, we have been told that the improvement of in the quality of sugar-cane is out of question without the imposition of cess on the cane grower. I may submit that if the House has negatived the proposal of this levy, this does not mean that the Government is exonerated of the responsibility of making every endeavour to improve the quality of the sugar-cane. We understand that the Agriculture Department of our State is considered to be the best and most efficient in the whole of India. We are also aware that this Department received a substantial amount for the purpose of sugar-cane research from the Government of India as well as from I. C. A. R. My submission is that when arrangements for this purpose exist, I see no reason why Government should say that since the proposal for the imposition of cess has fallen through, it will not be possible to make a provision to effect improvement in the quality of the sugar cane. Do I take it that it is the desire of the Government that unless zamindars are made to pay the cess, it may not be able to find money for improving the quality of sugar-cane. If that is the intention of the Government then to say mildly, it tantamounts to shirking its duty towards the zamindars. I hope that it would do its utmost to bring about improvement in the quality of the sugar-cane.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : But where is the money to come from ? Should the hon. Ministers bring it from their homes ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Chief Whip has remarked whether the hon. Ministers should bring the money from their homes to meet the cost of sugar cane research. That was far from

my intention. No Minister ever brings money from his house. It is always realised from the people through taxation. But it must not be lost sight of that the criterion of taxation is that the tax should be equitably levied. I think that Chaudhri Sahib who considers himself the champion of the cause of the zamindars, has failed to realise the full significance of the dropping off of that taxation clause from the Bill. He should know that if the clause levying the cess had existed, then the cane growers would have been made to pay Rs. 6/4 per hundred maunds of sugar which can be sold for Rs. 160 or so. In other words the tax comes to something like 4 per cent. As you are aware, Sir, sugar-cane has been exempt from Sales Tax but if cess proposed by the Government had not been negatived, it would have taken the place of Sales Tax, and the imposition of 4 per cent tax would have been construed as high, handedness on the part of the Government.

Then, Sir, we have been told that ultimately the burden of this cess would have fallen on the consumer. Now the price of the sugar is fixed by the Government of India and it is common knowledge that this price includes all the expenses including the Sales Tax, incurred by the factory owner for the manufacture of sugar. If the cess is realised from the factory owner, which ultimately is to be paid by the consumer, this amount can be utilised for the benefit of the cane growers. I, therefore, feel that this measure can prove beneficial to the Punjab cane growers only if it is enforced with the sole object of benefitting them. It would serve no useful purpose, if the factory owners are allowed to hold a way over the cane growers by means of their wealth. So when this Act is enforced and the prices are fixed by the Sugar Control Board, the Government should convince the Central Government that the Punjab Sugar-cane favourably compares with the sugar-cane of other States both in price and quality. Besides, it should endeavour to find out the reason why the Punjab sugar cane is sold at a lower price while the U. P. sugar cane finds easy market at the rate of Rs. 1/14 or Rs. 1/13 per maund. Government should make all-out efforts to improve the quality of sugar-cane and enable the cane grower to fetch, at least the same price, if not more, which a zamindar in U. P. ordinarily fetches. The Agriculture Department has been doing a good deal of work. I have no intention to level any criticism

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

against the working of this Department. It is just possible that the production percentage of sugar-cane in U. P. as compared with our State, may also be due to the climatic conditions. It has been said that the imposition of the proposed cess would enable the zamindars to improve the quality of sugar cane and that it is in the fitness of things to undertake this experiment. Here I cannot do without bringing this point home to the hon. Members in general and the hon. Minister-in-charge in particular that if the price of our sugar cane is raised from Rs. 1/6/- per maund to Rs. 1/14/- per maund which also happens to be the present rate in U. P., then I will be the first person to agree with the imposition of the proposed cess on the zamindars. Further I wish to point out that the Agriculture Department which has been functioning for the last 20 years has made all-out efforts to improve the quality and quantity of sugar cane in our State and it has succeeded in doing this work to a great extent. The present quality of sugar-cane is far far better than the one produced 20 years ago. We are soon going to place this Bill on the Statute Book of our State. Here I have no hesitation in saying this that if instead of safeguarding the interests of the poor sugar-cane growers, only penal provisions in connection with the issuing licences and regulating supply and price of sugar cane are intended to be enforced after the passage of the Bill now before the House, then it is really no use taking such a step. I would request the Government that at the time of making rules under the provisions of the proposed Bill, this important point should not be lost sight of and that is, that the poor zamindars receive adequate compensation for the hard labour they put in and ways and means are devised to improve the variety of sugar cane. At the time enforcement of the provisions of the proposed Bill, care should be taken that the factory owners do not exploit the poor zamindars. Zamindars are faced with many hardships as a result of which many problems have been cropping up and thereby necessitating the intervention of the authorities in the interests of maintaining law and order. If my hon. Friends were to pass through the sugar mills in Hamira and Phagwara, they will find for themselves that the zamindars are made to wait outside the factory premises for days together without any rhyme or reason.

Chief Minister : The provisions of the proposed Bill do not apply to those areas in Pepsu.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has been pleased to remark that the provisions of this Bill do not apply to those areas. There is no doubt about it and I am fully aware of the fact that better relationship exists between the Pepsu and our State. Is it not a fact that sugar-cane is imported into the territories of the Pepsu from Jagadhari? It is the bounden duty of the Government to discuss this matter with the Pepsu Government before enforcing the provisions of the Bill now before the House. If the Pepsu Government shows some disinclination to do so, then adequate steps should be taken on the sugar-cane imported into our State from various places in the Pepsu, and at the same time adequate steps should be taken to deal with the sugar cane brought from the areas of the Pepsu to sugar factories situated in our State. In the end I would like to impress upon the Government to devise ways and means to improve the quality and quantity of sugar cane in the interests of the zamindars.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Bill has reached the last stage and it is going to be passed into law very soon. I wish to clear the misunderstanding created by the statement of the hon. the Chief Minister to the effect that the provisions of this Bill do not apply to the areas in Pepsu. In this connection I wish to quote a few lines from clause 18 of this Bill :

"Provided that in the case of a factory situated outside the Punjab, such declaration shall only be made on receipt by the Cane Commissioner of an application to that effect, in the form and manner prescribed, (i) from the occupier of such factory and on the conditions that the occupier (i) establishes a branch office in the Punjab, (ii) deposits a security of Rs. 5,000 (rupees five thousand) in any Government treasury in the Punjab and (iii) appoints a person resident in the Punjab as his manager in the Punjab."

It is crystal clear from this that this provision applies to factories situated in the areas outside the Punjab State. Further I wish to impress upon the Government the vital necessity of considering the working of the factories. In fact it is the duty of

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

the Government to remove the defects in the working of the factories. The condition of the labourers in the factories is very deplorable. The zamindars who carry sugar cane to the factories do not receive good treatment at the hands of the factory owners. Instances in this connection are not wanting. In the month of January I toured the district of Jullundur and I found poor zamindars with hundreds of cart-loads of sugar-cane waiting in vain outside the Sugar Mills of Hamira and Phagwara. I was informed that the owners of those mills had expressed their intention to close down the mills. The poor zamindars who had covered a long distance with cart-loads of sugarcane were informed that they were not prepared to accept the sugar-cane due to reduction in its percentage on account of severe cold weather. It has been a practice with the owners of the sugar factories to accept sugar-cane from zamindars when its percentage is very high and when its percentage runs down for no fault of theirs, they are given a flat refusal.

Further, my hon Friends will agree with me that during the last and the current years if there is any industrial concern which has earned a very bad name for resorting to black-marketting, it is the sugar factories. This is not only the considered opinion of the general public but also of higher authorities including the Tariff Board. This Board has unequivocally stated that these factories should not function in future in India and that the owners of these factories should be treated in such a way that their syndicates are abolished and thus cease to function. In fact it has come out in the press too that the liquidation of the syndicates at their own initiative was the need of the hour as they have earned a very bad reputation, and the sooner they are abolished, the better would it be for the general public. There are sugar factories both in the State of Punjab and the Union of Patiala and the Punjab States Union. I am constrained to remark that the labourers are receiving very bad treatment at the hands of the owners of the factories. I have seen with my own eyes how injustice is being done to them. The condition of these labourers is very deplorable. In view of these facts my hon. Friends will agree with me that it is useless to think that the sugarcane growers will receive any better treatment at the hands of the factory owners. I am really surprised to hear from my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh that in his opinion there seemed to be no necessity for factory owners to obtain licences for crushing cane. There may be some justification

on the part of my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal to show some favours to factory owners, but I do not find any justification whatsoever on the part of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh to make such uncalled for remarks. It would, I think, be more appropriate to call him a (*Jat-numa-Lala*). **ਜੇਟ ਨੁਮਾ ਲਾਲਾ** Chaudhri Lahri Singh has expressed himself to be against the licensing of factories. I wonder in what century he thinks he is living. This question of vesting ownership of the means of production in society and their regulation by the State has assumed world-wide importance. It is not peculiar to this country. As an interim measure, a certain amount of State control over those who are allowed to own the instruments of production, is to day universally considered necessary. Everywhere the feeling is that the private capitalist enterprise should not be given a free hand. Even in this country, steps towards socialization have been taken by several provinces, such as U. P., Bihar and Madras. Only if people were to have the necessary understanding, they would not oppose socialistic measures. Only if people knew their own good, those who are sitting on the Treasury Benches would not be there. But, alas, like the proverbial *jat*, we would never be good at 'calculation,' and would remain dependent on 'patwaris for this purpose.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That does not concern the Bill at this stage.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, despite controls and regulations, during the last year and this year too, the businessmen have been giving the people cause for complaining of black-market and such other anti-social activities. I would request my zamindar friends not to fall in the trap of those capitalists who are against the licensing of factories. We should, on the other hand, urge that all industries should be socialized and so long as this is not done, full control should be exercised over them.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Let the industries be first set up. When they do not exist, how do you intend to socialize them?

Sardar Bachan Singh : What I mean to stress is that the capitalists will try to mislead you and so you should be careful before lending support to their demand. We should ask for the maximum control over business and industry; otherwise the capitalists will continue to fleece the peasants. Even if the Government fixes the rate of cane, the factory owners would cheat the growers by underweighing and getting 50 seers of a weight supposed to be one maund.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

I would like to say something about the deletion of clause 35. When the hon. Ministers signified their willingness to do so, many Members might have noted that their faces looked sore.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not make such remarks.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : It is a statement of fact.

Minister For Labour : It is not a fact.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Then, my Friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh asked the question as to whether the Ministers are expected to spend from their own pockets to meet Government needs. Who can deny that the whole of expenditure is being shared by 1½ crores of people living in this state? How can the question of Ministers contributing from their own pocket arise? On the other hand, they are receiving salaries for the work that they do.

Now, the most important question that confronts us is that of increasing our food production. Sugar is an essential article of food, whose food value is cent per cent.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I feel, Sir, that the Government has not done its duty in the matter. On the other hand it has been guilty of dereliction of duty. I shall place facts before the House in this connection. The Government of India had allocated three sugar factories to this province but these have not been installed so far. Some other factories were also allocated by the Government of India to this province but our Government has failed to perform its duty and these have not been set up so far.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Machinery has not arrived.

Sardar Bachan Singh : But has any site been prepared for those factories? Has any decision been taken as to where these factories are to be set up? I am of the opinion, Sir, that this province has great potentialities which if properly tapped, would make possible increased production of sugar-cane of a better quality. If 'Khadar' and 'bet' land is properly utilized for sugar cane cultivation, I am sure the yield would in no way be inferior to the cane grown in U. P.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : What, if the floods come?

Sardar Bachan Singh : They will nourish the plant, since it thrives in mud and water. (1 voice. They will sweep them off). Arrangements can be made to protect the crop from floods. It would surely not be impossible. If these tracts had been developed for cane cultivation sometime back, people would not today be complaining that the sugar ration allowed to them is less than in Delhi and U. P. Last year, it was stated that our province was deficit in rice. Now it is proposed to export so many thousand tons of rice. If it is possible to increase the production of rice in this province, why should it be difficult to increase the production of cane? But to achieve this object, we shall have to help and encourage the growers. The Government should see that the maximum quantity of sugar cane is produced from the soil. It should not show any lack of duty towards zamindars merely because the legislators have negatived the proposal for the levy of the cess as contained in clause 35 of the Bill. It should earnestly try to improve the quality of sugar-cane and see that it fetches reasonable price from the factory owners. It should make suitable arrangements according to which the cart men bringing cane to the factories may not have to wait for long hours.

Mr. Speaker : Is it not a repetition? This argument that the cart men will have to wait outside the factories for hours together has been repeated a number of times.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I think the rule as to repetition applies to the same speaker.

Mr. Speaker : Not at all. Does the hon. Member mean to say that the same thing can be said over and over again by different speakers?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Supposing a number of members want to support a motion and each one of them says that he supports it, will it be repetition?

Mr. Speaker : Repetition means repetition of arguments.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I have not made any repetition. I said that the Government should make necessary arrangements for providing sheds for these cart drivers who have to wait for long hours and also provide water troughs for bullocks.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I want that these things should not be repeated.

✓ **Sardar Bachan Singh :** It was not repetition, Sir.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is for me to decide whether the hon. Member is repeating his arguments or not. The hon. Member, as a matter of fact, has not been strictly relevant, but I have been giving him latitude.

✓ **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Sir, I mean to say that the working of this legislative measure, if passed, should be such that it does not defeat the purpose for which it is enacted. I know of many enactments which have not been properly enforced in the Province. One of them is the Removal of Social Disabilities Act. Its provisions are not being strictly enforced in the Province.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is again irrelevant.

Minister for Labour : Everything is being done in a satisfactory way.

✓ **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Similar is the case with other Acts [which are not being properly enforced. I would like to point out that the output of sugar has considerably diminished in the sugar factories and the responsibility for this shortage in production lies on the Agriculture Department. This department has done magnificent work in connection with the production of improved quality of wheat and cotton and for this it deserves our appreciation. But our Punjab is still very much backward in improving the varieties of sugar cane.

An hon. Member : There are a number of varieties of sugar cane that are grown in our province.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If our province has also advanced in this respect it is indeed creditable. So we should strive hard to increase the output of sugar and provide all facilities to zamindars to achieve maximum results. It has been provided in the Bill that Cane Growers' Co-operative Society will offer the cane to the occupier of a factory in the reserved area. I know that the Co-operative Department has done creditable work in many spheres of its activities but so far as the question of marketing of products is concerned, its work has not been appreciable.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is taking up every department of the Government one after another. He was talking of Agriculture Department ; now he is referring to Co-operative Department.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the Co-operative Department has not done good work so far as the marketing of sugar cane is concerned.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member does not become relevant by using the word "*ganna*" again and again

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, one of the factors which damps the enthusiasm of agriculturists is that their produce is not marketed immediately. It is a statutory obligation of the Co-operative Department to make adequate arrangements for marketing the produce of agriculturists and I would say that the object of this Bill will not be served if the co-operative societies neglect their duty in this direction.

I think if we wish to make this measure a success we should proceed in such a way that the factory owners are not in a position to exploit the growers. It is always in their interest not to deal with an organisation but with individuals. This is a plain fact and will be readily appreciated by the Government and the Minister-in-charge. The capitalists and the industrialists should be discouraged from dealing with the simple kisans direct and in this connection I would suggest that the principle of multi-co-operative societies should also be made applicable to them. The owners of sugar factories should be asked to get their requirements through co-operative societies and in my opinion these organisations will be able to charge proper prices from them for the good of the growers.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak, North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have stood up to congratulate the hon. Minister-in-charge for the magnanimity of mind that he has shown for the cause of the zamindars. This act on the part of the Government clearly shows that it has some soft corner for us and is elastic. It is a very healthy sign and at any rate I for one appreciate it very much.

However, I may draw the attention of the Government to one or two very important points. Firstly at every step in the Bill before us we find that work is to be done in consultation with the Advisory Committee. In this connection I humbly suggest that care should be taken by the Government while making nominations to it. At any rate two types of persons should in no case be nominated as members, namely the sympathisers of the factory owners and zamindars like Chaudhri Sahib Ram who are more loyal even than the King himself.

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh]

I hope the hon. Minister for Development will bear this suggestion in mind. Secondly to suggest that the Department will not implement the scheme properly is only a travesty of facts. Fortunately we have a Director who is very enthusiastic and active (ਚੁਲਬਲਾ) He does not mind even spending from his pocket if a kisan is to be benefitted.

Sardar Swaran Singh ; On a point of order, Sir. Is the word chulbla (ਚੁਲਬਲਾ) parliamentary ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Well, it is not a bad word. It only means active. Sir, my learned Friend Sardar Bachan Singh was pleased to attack me. I say like Hidayat Nama Khawind (Instructions for the husband) or Hidayat Nama Bivi (Instructions for the wife) Sardar Bachan Singh's speech was a Hidayat Nama Government (Instructions for the Government).

An hon. Member : The question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the question may now be put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Sugar Factories Control Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB REFUGEES REHABILITATION (LOANS AND GRANTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :
I introduce the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Rehabilitation : I move —

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban] (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the Bill that has been brought before the House gives rise to a very important question of principle. The object of this Bill is "to expedite grant of loans to deserving displaced persons" and therefore "it is necessary to empower the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation to sanction loan applications even though such applications had not been made to the Deputy Commissioners in the first instance." In this connection I have to invite the attention of the House to the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act, 1948. Clause 5 of this Act provides that a Deputy Commissioner can sanction a loan of Rs. 2,000. In case there is an application for a loan exceeding this amount, he cannot sanction it himself. He can only recommend it to the Financial Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner has the power to sanction that amount. The second thing which I want to point out is that section 8 prescribing the method of repaying loans says that "the loan, together with all interest due thereon if any, shall, except as provided in any bond executed by the borrower, be repayable by annual instalments for a period of seven years." Now if we accept the Bill which is before the House, it will mean that "the Financial Commissioner may entertain direct from any individual refugee or group an application in the prescribed form supported by an affidavit stating the amount of loan desired, and the manner in which the repayment of the loan if granted, is proposed". I would have like to bring out the difference between the existing provisions and the proposed provision. Such work had been entrusted to local officer and this is a normal procedure as that officer is aware of all local conditions and facts. He can see whether an individual.....

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, 13th March 1950.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

13th MARCH 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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SIMLA :

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1953

Punjab Legislative Assembly

First Session of the First Punjab Legislative
Assembly

Monday, 13th March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla,
at 2 p.m. of the clock Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar
Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUPERSESSIONS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

*** 1361. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of officers in the Education Department who have superseded others and the special reasons for such promotions;

(b) whether such promotions are subject to the concurrence of the Hon. Minister?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: (a) This part of the Assembly Question is vague in its reference both to personnel and period and the labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved. If the hon. Member wishes to make a concrete and specific reference the question may kindly be repeated.

(b) Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact that in March 1949, Seven Juniors were preferred to seniors?

Minister: Answer is possible only if the hon. Member gives names of persons and their posts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Could not the hon. Minister say something about the supersessions say for the past 6 months?

Minister: I shall be in a position to supply information to the hon. Member if he gives me definite cases. However I may say that sometimes supersession is said to have taken place while actually no such thing is done. For example, if we want a man as professor of Philosophy, only a man knowing Philosophy can be appointed. that does not mean any supersession.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: But does supersession take

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Minister: Yes, if that be the requirement of the Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that at times persons are temporarily appointed to some posts and such an appointment gives them a right for a permanent appointment?

Minister: It is not so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Are foreign qualified persons given preference in the matter of promotion in this Department?

Minister: Certainly; that is one of the considerations. People with foreign qualifications are considered better.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: But is not this a source of heart burning among others?

Minister: It may be so, but efficient men have to be employed in the Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Do cases in which promotion is given by way of supersession come to the notice of the Minister?

Minister: They come not only to the notice of the Minister but are also sent to the Public Service Commission.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Are the names of the superseded officers also sent to the Public Service Commission?

Minister: Yes; they are sent.

PROMOTION OF SCIENTISTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

* 1362. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State:—

(a) what special consideration is shown and encouragement given to Scientists in the Education Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that in several cases Science professors and teachers are weaned from their life long work in Science, and are put on to do other kinds of work after promotions;

(c) The reason why promotions are not possible in their own work and in the direction of research;

(d) whether Government proposes to take the matter

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) Scientists and others are all on one cadre and those whose work and conduct are of outstanding merit, are given special consideration and encouragement by way of promotion.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no separate cadre for scientists.

(d) This can only be possible if we have a separate cadre of scientists for which there appears to be no scope at present.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact that when teachers and professors of Science are promoted to higher posts they have to give up science work?

Minister: This question was replied during the last session.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does the hon. Minister remember everything regarding every question that was asked during the last session?

Minister:—At any rate I remember about this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Government evolved some scheme according to which the research work done by the teachers and professors can be utilised for setting up new industries in our State?

Minister: A scheme will be made when funds are available.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: But is there a scheme with the Government which will be put through when funds are available?

Minister: A scheme can be made when funds are there.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact that Science teachers and professors have to leave science work for the sake of promotion?

Minister: But that cannot be helped.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: But why is the Government shutting its eyes on this fact?

Minister: Government has its eyes wide open.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: What research facilities are available for those teachers of Science who are put on jobs that are not directly concerned with the subject?

Minister: I have already replied.

NATIONALIZATION OF TRANSPORT.

* 1491 **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) The total money spent so far by the Government on the nationalization of Transport in the State:

(b) Whether the Government proposes to proceed with the policy of nationalization of Transport?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: (a) The total expenditure up-to date on staff, stationery, furniture, travelling allowance and other contingencies etc. in connection with the nationalization of transport is Rs. 34,037/8/6. In addition, the amount spent on 200 vehicles earmarked for the implementation of the nationalization scheme is reckoned at Rs. 17, 37, 450

(b) Yes.

Shrimati Sita Devi: What will happen to the staff in view of the resolution, that was passed by this House day before yesterday?

Minister: That matter is to be considered.

Shrimati Sita Devi: It has been said that about a sum of Rs. 35,000 has been expended, but I ask if no nationalisation is to take place, why keep such high paid officers like the Provincial Transport Controller?

Minister: We have a good deal of work with us.

Shrimati Sita Devi: When the whole work is not to be nationalised, why pay him so much?

Minister: That is his pay already as a Government officer.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know what his salary was before he got this appointment?

Minister: He is an I. P. man and quite a senior Officer.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not a fact that he was a mere D. S. P. getting two or three hundred rupees?

Minister: It is no disqualification to be a D. S. P. for appointment to this post?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: How many of the 200 buses which the hon. Minister has stated to have been bought by the Government are in operation at the moment?

Minister: None.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: When were they bought?

Mr. Speaker: This information will be supplied when the next question is replied to.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will the old policy of the Government continue even after the recommendation of this House that the scheme be postponed for 3 years?

Minister: But we can take some routes for experimental purposes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Are not nationalisation and taking of some routes as an experimental measure two different things?

Minister: We can do that.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: How many of these 200 buses will be used for experimental purposes?

Minister: We may use all of them.

TRANSPORT VEHICLES LYING IN JULLUNDUR CIVIL SECRETARIAT

*1508. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number and make of transport vehicles lying idle at present in the compound of the Jullundur Civil Secretariat ;
- (b) the dates when these vehicles were purchased;
- (c) the total investment made by the Government in purchasing these vehicles;
- (d) the total depreciation caused by the non-use of these vehicles so far,
- (e) how much it will cost to make these vehicles road worthy once again;
- (f) how the Government proposes to dispose of these vehicles?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

- (a) 426 chassis were purchased through Government of India, out of which 184 have since been allotted to Government and semi-Government departments and 84 chassis have been given to various Body-builders for fabricating bodies thereon. The number and the make of the remaining 158 vehicles at present lying in the Secretariat compound is given below:—

[Minister for Education].

1. Chevrolet 137" W. B. chassis	5
2. Chevrolet 161" W. B. chassis	38
3. Ford 158" W. B. chassis	3
4. Ford 194" W. B. chassis	22
5. International 159" W. B. chassis	63
6. International 195" W. B. chassis	8
7. Distt. Buses (12 Chev. & 7 Fords)	19
Total	158

(b) These vehicles were received during the period April, 1948 to January, 1950.

(c) The total investment on 426 chassis amounts to about Rs. 33,16,879/-/- and the total cost of 242 chassis which are now left with the Government for implementation of Nationalization programme is Rs. 19,49,230/-/- approximately.

(d) Negligible.

(e) Nil.

(f) The Government propose to utilize the vehicles other than those allotted in the implementation of the Nationalization Scheme of road transport in the state.

Shri Virendra: Does the hon. Minister think that the vehicles which have been lying unprotected for the last two years have not undergone any depreciation?

Minister: There has been some depreciation but it is quite negligible. I may add that the vehicles are well looked after, batteries have been removed and the vehicles have been jacked up. All possible precautions have been taken but still the colour of their bodies is sure to fade with the passage of time

Shri Virendra. Is it not a fact that the original tyres and tubes of these vehicles have been damaged to such an extent that these will have to be replaced, before the vehicles are put into use?

Minister: No, these are quite serviceable.

Shri Virendra: Is it not a fact that the Government will have to spend a sum of about two thousand or three thousand rupees for making these vehicles serviceable?

Minister: No, it is not true.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Did the Government purchase these vehicles before deciding its policy regarding nationalisation of transport?

Minister: At the time of making the purchase, the Government had the intention of nationalising it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Did the Government incur such a heavy expenditure without deciding its policy?

Chief Minister: When the Government noticed that the private and other motor buses plying on the roads of our State were becoming unserviceable, we approached the Government of India for supplying us five hundred vehicles. Government of India gave these on the condition that we would not give these to anybody till the question of nationalisation, which was then under consideration, was decided.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: In addition to these vehicles purchased from the Government of India, did the Government make some local purchases also?

Chief Minister: Those Departments which thought it essential to have motor vehicles for their efficient working purchased these locally.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Were some vehicles purchased in addition to these also?

Chief Minister: I require notice for answering this question.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is it not a fact that at the time of purchasing these vehicles the Government issued a Press note that these would be given to refugee transport operators?

Chief Minister: As I have submitted, the Government of India asked us not to give these to anybody.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Why did the Government issue a press note if these vehicles were not to be given to any body?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that we were asked by the Government of India not to give these to anybody.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Is it a fact that some vehicles were bought without the previous sanction of the Government and that sanction was accorded after the vehicles had arrived?

Chief Minister: If the hon Member seeks information about any specific vehicle, enquiries can be made

Shri Virendra: Is it not a fact that some of the vehicles have become out of date and it would not be possible to obtain spare parts for them?

Chief Minister: No, it is not so.

Shri Virendra: Has the Government verified this fact from their experts?

Minister: Yes, Sir.

Shri Virendra: Did the Government enquire from their own experts only or from some outsiders also?

Minister: As I have submitted, the Government have consulted the experts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if before purchasing these vehicles, the Government had decided their policy about nationalization of transport?

Chief Minister: It had not been decided at that time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact then that the Government at first incurred the expenditure and then considered the question of nationalization?

Chief Minister: I have already replied to this question.

OMNIBUS SERVICE AT AMRITSAR AND JULLUNDUR

***1509. Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the monthly income of the Amritsar Omnibus Service from January, 1949 to December, 1949;

(b) the monthly income of Jullundur Omnibus Service from January, 1949 to December, 1949?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh:

(a) The monthly income of the Amritsar Omnibus Service from January, 1949 to December, 1949 was:—

		Rs.	As.	P.
January	...	32,695	9	0
February	..	45,670	1	0
March	...	58,331	15	6
April	..	76,501	8	0
May	..	1,01,836	11	3
June	...	1,18,915	1	9
July	..	1,11,169	7	6
August	..	1,07,566	9	6
September	...	99,153	2	3
October	..	98,212	4	0
November	...	84,782	3	0
December	...	83,621	14	9

(b) The monthly income of the Jullundur Omnibus Service, from January, 1949 to December, 1949 was:—

		Rs.	As.	P.
January	...	36,138	4	0
February	..	41,639	3	6
March	...	50,301	8	6
April	..	54,544	11	0
May	...	66,282	15	0
June	..	75,718	2	0
July	...	87,863	6	0
August	...	95,079	5	0
September	..	92,316	4	0
October	...	90,510	4	3
November	...	81,639	9	0
December	...	75,547	5	0

Shri Virendra: May I know whether the amount of income stated by the hon. Minister was gross income or net income?

Minister: This was gross income.

Shri Virendra: May I know the expenditure incurred in this connection?

Minister: I require notice for answering this question.

Shri Virendra. The figures supplied by the Government reveal that while income from Amritsar Omni-bus Service during the months of May to August was pretty large, subsequently it went on dwindling. May I know the cause of gradual decrease?

Minister: At first the number of passengers was large but afterwards it decreased.

Shri Virendra: What was the cause of it?

Minister: In summer the number of passengers is larger than in winter.

Shri Virendra: Is it a fact that the Government has given notice to the Manager of Amritsar Omnibus service that his services would be no longer required?

Minister: That is a departmental matter.

Shri Virendra: I wish to know the real cause of decrease in income.

Chief Minister: It does not arise out of this.

Minister: As I have already stated, larger number of people make use of the Omnibus Service in summer.

(6) 10 PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY [13th March 1950.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order. Does it lie with the Chief Minister to say that a particular supplementary question does not arise out of the main question?

Mr. Speaker: He can draw my attention to that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will you kindly ask him to simply draw your attention?

CAMP COMMANDANTS AND DEPUTY CAMP COMMANDANTS

* 1426. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the Hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of the Camp Commandants and Deputy Camp Commandants recruited by the Government in connection with the different camps in the East Punjab between 15-8-47 and 31-1-50;

(b) the names of the refugee camps to which the aforesaid officers were appointed;

(c) the salary and other allowances paid to each one of them per month during the period of their services,

(d) the educational qualifications of each one of them;

(e) whether any police officer whose services were terminated on orders from the Central Government was also taken as a Camp Commandant; if so, the name of the officer and the reasons for taking him in service;

(f) whether the aforesaid police officer was made to resign his post in the police department on account of charges of corruption against him made by the United Punjab Government?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

(a) to (d). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of labour, which it is considered will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be derived from it.

(e) and (f). The facts are that Shri P. S. Barar was not asked to resign his job in the Police Department. He was temporarily appointed as Superintendent of Police in the hope that the Government of India would agree to his appointment in the East Punjab. As the Government of India did not do so, his services were terminated with effect from the 16th April, 1949. After being relieved from the Police Department,

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is the Government prepared to show the same favour to its other employees who have been dismissed on charge of corruption, which it has showed to Mr. Brar?

Chief Minister: There is no question of favouring any body.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: When this gentleman was not considered suitable by the government of India, what were those qualifications on the basis of which he has been re-employed by this Government?

Minister: I am not in a position to say if there were any qualifications which the Government of India ignored but on the basis of which he has been re-employed by the Punjab Government. If the hon. Member so desires I shall make enquiries and let him know.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: The hon. Minister has stated that he would enquire into the question of Mr. Brar's re-employment. Had he been in continuous service, the words re-employment would not have been used.

RURAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

* 1449. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state.—

(a) the total amount spent on the staff employed in the Rural Rehabilitation Department from the beginning upto 31-1-50, including the travelling allowances, special pay etc.;

(b) the total amount spent on all other items concerning the Rehabilitation in East Punjab;

(c) the total area allotted so far by the Rural Rehabilitation Department?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

(a) Rs. 1,20,00,559.

(b) Rs. 2,62,42,628.

(c) Total area allotted under the quasi permanent scheme of allotment upto 28-2-50 was 15,06,483 standard acres out of 20,40,323 standard acres available in Punjab (India) and 1,76,279 standard acres out of 4,23,826 standard acres in Pepsu.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: As stated by the hon. Minister the Government has spent about, Rs. 4 crores on the allotment of land which on average comes to Rs. 25 per acre. Does not the the Government consider this expenditure too much?

Minister: Only necessary expenditure has been incurred.

RICE MILLS IN AMRITSAR

* 1300. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state;—

- (a) the number of rice mills in each of the Tehsils of the Amritsar District;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these mills have been ordered to stop work for the last few months, and sealed; if so, the number of such sealed mills;
- (c) the number of those mills which continued working;
- (d) the compensation, if any, Government proposes to pay to the non-working sealed mills;
- (e) the reasons for ordering the aforesaid mills to stop the work of husking rice?

(a) The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa:

(i) Amritsar Tahsil	...	117
(ii) Ajnala Tahsil	...	57
(iii) Tarn Taran, Tehsil	..	69
(iv) Patti Tahsil	..	39
Total	..	<hr/> 282

(b) It is a fact that unauthorised mills have been ordered to stop work for the last few months and sealed. The number of such sealed mills is given below:—

(i) Amritsar Tahsil	..	91
(ii) Ajnala Tahsil	...	50
(iii) Tarn Taran Tahsil	...	57
(iv) Patti Tahsil	..	34
Total	...	<hr/> 232

(c)	(i) Amritsar Tahsil	..	26
	(ii) Ajnala Tahsil	...	7
	(iii) Tarn Taran Tahsil	...	12
	(iv) Patti Tahsil	...	5
	Total	...	<hr/> 50

(d) There is no proposal to pay any compensation to the sealed mills.

(e) There cannot be proper supervision of a large number of chakkis scattered all over the district. It would be an expensive and almost impossible task. In the absence of effective supervision there would be danger of large scale evasion of the provisions of the Monoply Scheme. The concentration of paddy sales at the important milling centres ensures maximum procurement and also better prices for paddy for the producer.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that the cultivators have to go long distances to get the hermitted three maunds of paddy husked at some chakki?

Minister: No complaint of this nature has been received.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it not a fact that people are put to a great hardship on account of long distances of chakkis from each other?

Minister: Inconvenience, no doubt, is there, but it is essential for procurement purposes.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know the qualifications taken into consideration for ordering a mill to stop work and others to continue working?

Minister: The convenience for supervision is the criterion.

Sardar Bachan Singh: May I know if the Government is prepared to allow one mill in an area of five miles taking into consideration hardship caused to the people at the present time?

Minister: It will be considered.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: May I know if the Government, before ordering the mills to stop work take into consideration the fact that many people would be thrown out of work?

Minister: But the gain as compared with that was more.

PADDY

* 1301. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) the price fixed per maund of Desi paddy and Basmati paddy respectively in the Amritsar District,
- (b) the quantity of rice obtainable from one maund of paddy after husking;
- (c) the milling charges per maund of paddy fixed by Government;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(d) the price per maund at which rice of Desi paddy and Basmati paddy are available to the Syndicate after husking;

(e) the price per maund at which Government purchases rice of Desi paddy and Basmati paddy from the Syndicates?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: (a) The maximum and minimum prices fixed for paddy in the Amritsar district are:—

(i) Coarse paddy	
Maximum	Rs. 9/12/- per maund.
Minimum	Rs. 8/4/- „ „

(ii) Basmati paddy	
Maximum	Rs. 12/- „ „
Minimum	Rs. 10/8/- „ „

(b) Coarse rice: Approximately $25\frac{1}{2}$ seers from one maund of paddy

Superior rice: Approximately $24\frac{1}{2}$ seers from one maund of paddy.

(c) Government does not have to fix milling charges under the Monopoly Scheme

(d) It is not possible to state the price per maund at which rice of desi paddy and basmati paddy are available to the syndicate after husking, since purchases of paddy by the Syndicate are made at market rates which range between the minimum and maximum rates fixed by Government, but in view of shortage, are usually at or near the maximum. The ex-mill prices fixed by Government have been worked out on the basis of maximum prices for paddy and, therefore, includes margin of profit for the syndicate. This margin varies according to the prices actually paid for paddy by the syndicate.

(e) Coarse rice. Rs. 17/11/- per maund ex-mill subject to quality deductions on a scale prescribed by Government.

Superior rice Rs. 24/8/- per maund ex-mill subject to quality deductions on a scale prescribed by Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know if the Government has received any representations from the people of Ajnala Tehsil to the effect that the syndicate earns 33 per cent profit by purchasing the paddy at the controlled rate?

Minister: No such representations have been received.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it not a fact that I wrote a detailed letter to the Minister concerned regarding this matter. How can he now say that he received no representation?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Minister please state if he received any letter from Sardar Sahib?

Minister: I do'nt remember. If it was sent it must have been replied to.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

*1458. **Shri Bhaght Ram Choda:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state the total amount spent so far by the Government on the Grow More Food Campaign and the anticipated benefit therefrom?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: Total amount of about Rs. 160 lakhs will be spent on Grow More Food campaign during the financial year 1949-50 under the various grow more food Schemes of Irrigation Department, additional irrigation has been provided during kharif 1949 to more than 2 lakh acres of land which will result in additional food production of more than 40,000 tons. The other schemes, viz., sinking of percolation wells, tubewells, mechanical cultivation, distribution of fertilizers, town and village compost, improved seeds etc. will give an additional yield of about 20,000 tons of food.

Pandit Shri Sharma: May I know since how long this grant of Rs. 1 crore and 60 lakhs received from the Government of India is being spent?

Minister: Ever since the scheme has been put into effect.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know since how long this scheme has been put into effect?

Minister: From April 1949 to March 1950.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Government received any report regarding any benefits accruing from the scheme?

Minister: It is due to this scheme that the procurement during this year has been more than that in the previous year and it is hoped that in the next year it will be still more.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the killing of monkeys is included in this scheme?

Minister: yes, it is.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that people dislike the killing of monkeys and they say that such things were not done even during the British regime?

Minister: Those who want to keep them as pets, they can do so.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Will the hon. Minister please state the approximate percentage of this amount spent for propaganda puposes and on account of T. A. of officers?

Minister: I can make enquiries if the hon. Member gives notice.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether production has also increased along with the increase in procurement?

Minister: Production has also increased.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar: Can the hon. Minister give figures?

Minister: I require notice for this.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: How much of this expenditure has been incurred for the purchase of jeeps?

Minister: I can tell provided due notice is given.

MANUFACTURE OF KHADDAR CLOTH.

*1459. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government has started the manufacturing of Khaddar; if so, the monthly amount spent thereon;

(b) how much khaddar has been manufactured so far, and at what cost;

(c) how much of it has so far been disposed of; and with what profit or loss?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Sinhg Bajwa: (a) Government have started the manufacturing of khaddar under the cotton spinning and weaving scheme. On an average, monthly expenditure comes to about Rs. 45,200/-

(b) 8,35,784 yards of khaddar has been manufactured at a cost of Rs. 10,84,723/-.

(c) 1,64,615 yards of cloth has been disposed of up to the 31-1-50. No loss was involved.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that khaddar which was of a bad quality was given to the Departments because it could not be disposed of in the market?

Minister: The quality of khaddar given to the Department is not bad.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Will the hon. Minister please state to what use the departments put this khaddar which they bought?

Minister: I require notice for this.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the price written on this khaddar is certified by the All India Spinners Association?

Chief Minister: We are in correspondence with the All India Spinners Association in this matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that the all India Spinners Association has refused to give a certificate?

Chief Minister: I am still an agent of the All India Spinners Association. I can say that the information of hon. Member is not based upon facts.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Is the Government definite that no loss has been incurred in the matter of khaddar Spinning Scheme?

Minister: I assure the hon. Member that there is no such loss.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Is the Government prepared to constitute an Enquiry Committee to find out whether there is any loss in this?

Minister: When there is no loss at all what is the good of such an Enquiry Committee?

HOUSE RENT PAID TO JUNIOR CLERKS AT SIMLA

* 1427. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any house rent is paid to the Junior Clerks at Simla by the Government, if so, the rate per mensem;

(b) whether any house rent is paid to Government servants Class IV at Simla; if so, the rate per mensem;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(c) whether Government instituted any enquiry before fixing the rate of house rent for Government servants class IV and satisfied itself if any house at the rate fixed class IV could be obtained, if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revise the rates of house rent for Government servants Class IV if not, what other steps the Government proposes to take to relieve them from the resulting hardship at Simla?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) Yes. At the following rate:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| (i) Those drawing below Rs. 100/- | |
| with families | Rs. 15/- p.m. |
| without families | Rs. 10/- p.m. |
| (ii) Those drawing Rs. 100 or above | |
| with families. | Rs. 20/- p.m. |
| without families | Rs. 13/- p.m. |

(b) Yes. at the rate of Rs. 2/- p.m.

(e) This Government adopted the rate at which the Allowance was being paid by the Government of India to their employees of Class IV stationed at Simla. No enquiry was considered necessary.

(d) No, not at present.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief minister be pleased to state whether any accommodation is available in Simla at the rate at which Government servants class IV receive the House Rent?

Chief Minister: House rent allowance is a part allowance only.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does not the hon. Chief Minister feel that the amount of the House Rent allowance given to class IV Government servants is too meagre? Has he gone round to see that it is very difficult to get houses at low rents in Simla?

Chief Minister: I am aware of it. But still we have to look to our funds also.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Does it mean that the Finance Department does not look to such cases on their merits?

Chief Minister: We look to every matter on its merits and try to spend as much as we can.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know why is it that the poor chaprasis are paid meagre allowances while the officers and the Ministers get good allowances?

Chief Minister: The hon. Members should know that the ministers don't get this allowance.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Because they have free accommodation.

Sarimati Sita Devi: May I know whether the argument of lack funds is advanced only when the question of increase in the house rent of poor peons and clerks comes before the Government or it is also taken into consideration at the time of grant of big allowances to high officers ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: May I know whether Government has ever cared to see that quarters have been provided to the peons just as scavengers are ordinarily provided with ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the reason for not enhancing the house rent of the peons is that they should be compelled to stay with their officers and do odd jobs for them ?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

Chief minister: I strongly repudiate this insinuation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether financial stringency equally effects the lower grade Government employees and high officers or it is the former class which is affected most ?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, I do not ask for any opinion. My point is that when the question of helping the lower grade Government servants comes before the Government, it is always the financial stringency that stands in its way. But as regards grant of fat allowances to high officials, the difficulty of lack of funds is never felt by it. May I know as to what are the main reasons which make the Government to withhold help to low paid staff ?

Chief Minister: All I can say is that the presumption of my hon. Friend is wholly wrong.

SESSION OF THE ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE AT JAIPUR

* 1432 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon, Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any invitation either from the Central Government of India or the parliamentary Board of the All India Congress Committee was received by the East Punjab Government for attending the session of the All India Congress at Jaipur during the year 1948; if so, the date of its receipt

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(b) whether one of the hon. Ministers of East Punjab Government visiring Jaipur was also a member of the Congress Working Committee and wheter he was allowed to draw any T. A. for his Jaipur visit? If so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, It was thought that hon. Minister was as if on Government duty.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know on what business the hon. Ministers of the Punjab Government went to Jaipur in the absence of any invitation either from the Central Government or from the All India Congress Working Committee?

Chief Minister: I regret I cannot disclose the nature of the business.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that certain Ministers of the Punjab Government went to Jaipur on tour and came back without meeting anybody, either any member of the All India Congress Working Committee or officer of the Central Government?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Chief Minister prepared to take the House into confidence with regard to the nature of the business on which the Ministers went to Jaipur?

Chief Minister: I am sorry I cannot.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that certain hon. Ministers visited Jaipur on official business?

Chief Minister: Yes, the Ministers did go to Jaipur.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know the number and names of the hon. Ministers who went to Jaipur?

Chief Minister: I require notice for this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that one of the hon. Ministers drew travelling allowance for his visit to Jaipur while others did not?

Chief Minister: Yes, possibly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Why does not the hon. Chief Minister tell the House plainly?

Chief Minister: The difficulty is that the presumption of my hon. Friend is entirely wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Then will he kindly say something based on right presumption?

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member gives notice of a question, information will be supplied to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: My point is that the hon. Chief Minister has admitted that certain Ministers visited Jaipur and that one of them drew T. A. while others did not. I want to know what official business the other hon. Ministers performed without charging any travelling allowance.

Chief Minister: Well, Sir, the question seeks information with regard to one of the Ministers only. But I have not said that the other Ministers never got any travelling allowance.

DAILY HOURS OF DUTY AND PAY OF JAIL WARDERS

*1469 **Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state?

(a) the daily hours of duty and monthly pay of the warders serving in the Jail Department of the Punjab.

(b) whether the Government has under consideration any proposal to revise their daily hours of duty and their monthly pay?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (a) First Part: 8 to 9 hours a day partly during the day and partly at night and in addition drill for half an hour.

Second Part:

Ordinary Grade Warders ..	Rs 30/- p.m. on appointment.
	Rs. 31/- p.m. after 3 years.
	Rs. 32/- p.m. after 10 years.
	Rs. 33/- p.m. after 17 years.

Selection Grade Warders ...	Rs. 30-1/3-41
Head Warders II Grade ...	Rs. 40-1-45/1-50
Head Warders I Grade ...	Rs 55/- p.m.

(b) Yes, a proposal for the revision of their monthly pay only is under the consideration of Government but no proposal for revision of their hours of duty.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know since when the question of revision of grades of pay of the Warders is hanging fire before the Government?

Chief Minister: I require notice for this question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it not a fact that this matter has been before the Government for more than a year?

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member gives notice, the exact date can be collected for him.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Does this question relate to the increase or decrease of pay of warders?

Chief Minister: All I can say is that the question of revision of their monthly pay is under consideration of the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: I don't want to know the exact date but I want to know the approximate period during which the question of revision of their pay has been under the consideration of the Government?

Chief Minister: I cannot say anything off-hand. If the hon. Member gives notice, he will get a definite reply.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know when the grades of the police-men were revised, why so much delay has been caused in the revision of grades of these poor people?

Chief Minister: There is no question of comparison. The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is the Government aware that while the low paid Government employees in other departments get more pay and facilities and the Warders get comparatively less pay and facilities, yet the grades of pay the latter have not been revised so far?

Chief Minister: That is why the question of revision of their pay is under consideration of the Government.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

*1471. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the names and places of residence of persons who have been appointed Extra Assistant Commissioners in the Punjab by (i) direct nomination (ii) promotion from Tehsildars or other services (iii) by competition with effect from the 1st of April, 1948?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (i) Direct nomination—Register 'C' 6 from among Lawyer Magistrates.

Home district Sialkot-1. Gujrat-1, Jhang-1,
Ambala-1, Jullundur-1.
Amritsar-1.

(ii) (a) Promotion from Tahsildars 12.

Home districts Hoshiarpur-2, Kangra-1, Ambala-1,
Multan-1 Hissar-1, Amritsar-1, Sheikhpura-1,
Karnal-1, Ludhiana-1, Dera Gazi Khan-1, Gujran-
wala-1.

(b) Promotion from Ministerial Government servants 6.
Home Districts—Gurdaspur-1, Multan-1, Rawalpindi-1, Jullundur-1, Dera Gazi Khan-1, Sialkot-1,

(iii) By competition 9.

Home Districts Jullundur-1, Hoshiarpur-1, Montgomery-1, Ambala-1, Rawalpindi-2, Lahore-1.
The home districts of the other two candidates are not known at present. It is not usual in such cases to give names of individual officers.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know whether Government has considered the matter of appointment of Extra Assistant Commissioners through competition only and by no other method? If so, with what results?

Chief Minister: Sir, this is a request for action and it will be considered.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint E. A. Cs. by promotion or through competition?

Chief Minister: The Government will consider the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us the exact position of the lawyer magistrates? What is the method of their appointment?

Chief Minister: The lawyer magistrates were appointed in the Joint Punjab for two years. But when we wanted that they should continue in service, their files were examined and sent to the Public Service Commission for recommendation to permanent appointments. Out of those recommended by the Public Service Commission, some were confirmed against permanent vacancies. The others are still working and they will be absorbed as vacancies occur. But their confirmation will also be made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Do I take it that in future the lawyer magistrates will be recruited through Public Service Commission?

Chief Minister: No new lawyer magistrates will be recruited. Only those will be confirmed against permanent vacancies on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, who have not yet been absorbed.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know whether any E. A. C. has been nominated from amongst the Scheduled Castes?

Chief Minister: I cannot say off hand.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SERVICES

***1543. Shri Virendra:** will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any formula regarding communal representation in Government services exists at present; if so, the details thereof?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given to Assembly question No. 1445 starred.

Shri Virendra: The hon. Chief Minister would recollect that some time back he was pleased to remark that no new formula was framed and that the formula followed in the United Punjab was being followed here, may I know if the same formula is being followed here at present or some changes have been effected in it under the Constitution?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the principle of communal representation in the services is followed here in our State?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: How long does the Government intend to continue the present formula?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it the intention of the hon. the Chief Minister not to say a word in reply to such questions?

Mr. Speaker: Next question please.

Cases Against Corrupt Government Servants.

***1547. Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State:—

(a) the total number of cases of corruption against the Government servants disposed of by the Anti-Corruption Committee during the last two years?

(b) the numbers respectively of Government servants who have been dismissed, suspended or exonerated?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. (a) 596. In addition the Anti-Corruption Committee disposed of 1880 other Communications of various types received during the period.

(b) (i) 43 dismissed; (ii) 32 suspended and (iii) 521 exonerated.

Vide Debates dated 24-3-1950.

Shri Virendra: How many I. C. S. and P. C. S. officers are there amongst these 43 dismissed persons?

Chief Minister: I require fresh notice.

Shri Virendra: How many I. C. S. and P. C. S. officers are there amongst these 32 suspended persons?

Chief Minister: I require fresh notice.

Shri Virendra: Is it a fact that sometime back an enquiry was held against Mr. Grewal, Deputy Commissioner, Ambala?

Chief Minister: I am sorry I cannot disclose anything by name.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: From the figures already quoted by the hon Chief Minister it is clear that out of the total number of these 596 cases, allegations in connection with 500 cases could not be substantiated. May I know if this is due to the inefficiency of the Anti-corruption Agency? In view of these facts, is it the intention of the Government to appoint some other Agency for this purpose?

Chief Minister: It is not its duty to frame charges even against those against whom allegations could not be substantiated. It is not right to say that the Anti-corruption Agency is inefficient because allegations of corruption could not be substantiated. Hence the question of appointing any other agency does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether complaints regarding these 500 out of the total number of 596 cases in which allegations have not been proved, were made by 596 persons or by the Anti-corruption Agency?

Chief Minister: It is the function of the Anti-corruption Agency to investigate the complaints received by the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether these complaints were received by the Anti-corruption Committee and then sent to the Anti-corruption Agency for further investigations?

Chief Minister: The Anti-corruption Committee had disposed of 596 cases of corruption against Government servants during the last 2 years besides having disposed of 1880 other communications received from other sources. No action could be taken in many cases as anonymous letters were not entertained by the Committee.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the Anti-corruption Committee has any knowledge about the disposal of these cases? In how many cases were punishments awarded and what is the number of those cases in which allegations could not be substantiated?

Chief Minister: 43 dismissed, 32 suspended and 521 exonerated.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if out of these complaints, there has been any complaint against any officer of the P. C. S. and the P. E. S.?

Chief Minister: I require notice.

Shri Virendra: May I know whether the Anti-corruption Committee has taken or decides to take any action against those persons who have sent in wrong complaints of corruption against any official? Is it the intention of the Government to prosecute such persons?

Chief Minister: No person has been prosecuted so far for sending in wrong complaints.

WAR JAGIRS.

***1568. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state;—

- (a) the number of Jagirs awarded by the Government under section 3 of the East Punjab War Awards Act, 1948;
- (b) the authority appointed by the Government to entertain and dispose of such applications;
- (c) the total number of applications received for the purpose together with the number of the accepted and the rejected applications separately;
- (d) whether any publicity was given for the award of such jagirs; if so, what?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: (a) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(b), (c) and (d) The Deputy Commissioners have been asked to submit through the Commissioners of the Divisions recommendations for grant of war jagirs. Their recommendations are still awaited.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether any time has been fixed by the hon. Minister for keeping a certain matter under consideration? Will it take 2 to 4 years for the hon. Minister to consider this matter?

Minister: As soon as applications are received.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Has the Government fixed any definite date?

Minister: The officers are supposed to send as early as possible as and when they receive these applications. The Act itself is a sufficient notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Minister has already stated that final date has been fixed and now he is pleased to remark that no final date has been fixed.

Minister: I never said that a final date has already been fixed.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Is it a fact that Government has not received any application for the last 2 years?

Minister: All applications have not been received.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: May I know whether any definite date has been fixed for receiving these applications by the Deputy Commissioners?

Minister: I require notice.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: May I know whether any publicity has been given to the effect that under the Act such and such a person can claim a jagir?

Minister: The Act itself is a sufficient notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does the Government possess any money for this purpose?

Minister: Yes, jagirs will be granted to them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Are jagirs to be granted in connection with the services rendered during the 1st Great War or 2nd Great War?

Minister: Both.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will any jagirs be granted for rendering service during the War of Indian Independence?

Ministerr: If the hon. member is anxious about that, then he should press for such a Bill before the House.

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

USE OF HINDI IN GOVERNMENT WORK

408. **Pandit Jiwan Lal:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

[Pandit Jiwan Lal]

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for promoting the use of Hindi for Government work, particularly after the declaration of Hindi as the national language,
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to replace Urdu which is still in use in the police reports, Patwaris, records and in the junior courts of the State?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava; The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Assembly Question No. 1695, (Starred);

— — —
PROHIBITION IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

409. Pandit Jiwan Lal: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

- (a) the total expenditure involved in launching prohibition in the Rohtak district up-to-date;
- (b) the net loss to Government revenue due to prohibition in the same period;
- (c) the number of cases detected and convicted of illicit distillation and smuggling of liquor in this period;
- (d) the number of offences similar to those mentioned in part (c) above committed and prosecuted from April, 1947 to the date of introducing the prohibition?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

- (a) Rs. 1,18,297/12/3 upto the 28th February, 1950.
- (b) Rs. 3,66,193/12/- upto the 28th February, 1950.

	Detected	Convicted.
(c) (i) Number of cases of illicit distillation of liquor upto the 28th February, 1950. ...	16	15
(ii) Number of cases of smuggling of liquor upto the 28th February 1950	338	247
(d) (i) Number of cases of illicit distillation of liquor during the period from the 1st April, 1947 to the 1st October, 1948. ...	20	16
(ii) Number of cases of smuggling of liquor during the period from the 1st April, 1947 to the 1st October 1948.	105	83

Vide Debates of 23-3-1949.

QUOTA OF IRON AND STEEL SUPPLIED FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

410. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the quota of iron and steel supplied district-wise in the State for agricultural implements from 1st April, 1949 up-to-date ;
- (b) the total quota of iron and steel allocated to the State by the Central Government for the same period ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa. (a) The quota of iron and steel supplied district-wise in the State for agricultural purposes from the 1st April, 1949 up-to-date is as under :—

Serial No.	District	Tons.
1.	Gurgaon	125
2.	Rohtak	341
3.	Hissar	93
4.	Karnal	316
5.	Ambala	227
6.	Ludhiana	170
7.	Jullundur	589
8.	Hoshiarpur	79
9.	Ferozepore	212
10.	Amritsar	339
11.	Gurdaspur	178
Total		<u>2669</u>

Iron for the 4th period 1949 (October-December) has not yet completely arrived.

(b) The total quota of iron and steel allocated by the Central Government to this State from the 1st April, 1949 up-to-date (2nd period 1949 to 1st period 1950) was 11266 tons. Out of this only 2669 tons have actually been received.

NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT-WISE

411. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the literacy percentage estimated for each district in the State ;
- (b) the number of Government High Schools already running or which are proposed to be opened in each district of the State ;
- (c) the number of Government High Schools opened in the State after the partition, district-wise ;

(d) whether it is a fact that no such school has been opened in the Gurgaon District, if so the reason therefor ;

(e) whether there is a proposal to open one at the moment ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) It is regretted that district-wise percentage of literacy is not available. The literacy table for 1941 census gives literacy by religion and age and not literacy percentages district-wise.

(b) The total number of Government High Schools in this State is 57. District-wise figures are :—

Ambala	4.	Amritsar	3
Gurgaon	4.	Ferozepore	6
Hissar	5.	Gurdaspur	3
Karnal	5.	Hoshiarpur	5
Rohtak.	5.	Jullundur	4
Simla	4.	Kangra	4
		Ludhiana	5

Only one Government High School in the Gurdaspur District is proposed to be opened next year.

(c) Only two Government Girls High Schools in the Simla District have been opened after partition.

(d) No school has been opened in the Gurgaon District owing to paucity of funds.

(e) There is no proposal to open any High School in the Gurgaon District.

TOUR PROGRAMMES OF HON. MINISTERS

412. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the M. L. As. concerned are given information of the tour programmes of the hon. Ministers in advance ;

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

b) Does not arise

TOURS BY HON. MINISTERS

413 **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total mileage of touring done by each hon. Minister, from April 1, 1949 upto January 31, 1950 ;
- (b) the total mileage of kacha road touring performed by each of them during the same period ;
- (c) the number of towns and villages visited by each of them separately during the same period ;
- (d) the number of nights spent on tour in villages by each of them during the same period ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :-

	H. C. M.	H. M. R.	H. M. D.	H. M. E.	H. M. L.
(a)	15,687 miles.	14,432 miles.	15,727 miles.	11,324 miles.	10,547 miles.
(b)	Nil.	Nil.	120 miles.	11 miles.	No separate record.
(c)	24 towns 13 villages.	28 towns 16 villages.	127 towns and villages.	69 towns. 6 villages.	29 towns. 15 villages.
(d)	Nil.	5 nights.	Nil.	3 nights.	Nil.

LAND ACQUIRED FOR THE FARIDABAD TOWNSHIP

414. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area in acres of land acquired by the Government for the Faridabad Township in the Gurgaon District ;
- (b) the date of its acquisition ;
- (c) the date by which the Government proposes to give land in exchange to the evicted owners ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No land has as yet been acquired for Faridabad Township. So far 2453 acres of land have been requisitioned for this Township with a view to its acquisition later on after a decision about the final area to be acquired has been taken.

(b) Does not arise, as no area has as yet been acquired. The requisitioning orders were passed on various dates between September and December, 1949.

(c) The question of giving evacuee land in exchange to those who prefer this mode of compensation to cash compensation would be taken up as soon as the land has been acquired. Sufficient evacuee area for giving compensation in kind has been reserved from quasi-permanent allotment of land.

SUPPLY OF TRACTORS

415. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of tractors supplied district-wise under the 'Grow More Food Scheme' ;
- (b) whether a request for six tractors was received by the Government from the District authorities at Gurgaon for cultivation of an area of 2000 acres of land near Tilpat village ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that thousands of acre of cultivable and cultivable waste land remains unsown for want of tractors ;
- (d) if the replies to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative the reasons for not supplying the tractors for purposes of cultivation of the said land ;
- (e) whether the Government propose to take any action to avoid any delay in sowing in future ?

The hon Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Karnal ... 34
 Ludhiana ... 30
 Jullundur ... 30
 Ferozepore ... 15
 Hoshiarpur... 15
 Hissar ... 15

- (b) No.
- (c) Yes.

(d) It has been decided to tackle the bet areas in the above districts first. The tractors will be sent to Gurgaon and other districts as soon as the cultivation of bet areas in the above districts is completed.

- (e) Yes.

COMMUNAL RATIO IN SERVICES

416. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government still adhere to the principle of maintaining communal ratio in the services ; if so, in which services and in what ratio ;

Pandit Jiwan Lal :

- (b) whether it is a fact that such communal ratio has been abolished ; if so, from what date ;
- (c) the names and addresses of persons community-wise recruited to the Provincial Civil Service cadre and the equivalent cadre in the Police, Agriculture and Education Departments from date of the abolition of this ratio ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) and (b) In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given to Assembly Question No. 1445 (Starred).*

RESETTLEMENT OF MEOS

417. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that it invited applications for resettlement from such Meos as had left their homes during communal disturbances, but had not opted for Pakistan and had now returned to their homes ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that at the time of the census of refugees, they were not in the Punjab but in the surrounding areas of U.P. ;
- (c) whether the Government still stick to the principle of resettling only those who were in the Punjab at the time of census ;
- (d) if the reply to part (c) above is in the affirmative, the reasons why Meos not entitled to resettlement were put to unnecessary trouble by being brought back ;
- (e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative the date by which the Government intends to resettle them ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) This was never the policy of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As early as possible. No definite date can be given at this stage.

RESETTLEMENT OF MEOS

418. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Meos who wanted to resettle in Gurgaon District were asked to apply with ten rupees court fee stamp :

*Vide Page (15) 17 infra

- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that this condition was waived later on ;
- (c) whether the Government propose to refund the stamp money to such Meos as have already paid ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Setoi : (a) No such direction was issued.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS

419 **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of land in acres consolidated upto date district-wise in the Punjab ;
- (b) whether a request for starting the work with the Gurgaon District by its three M. L. As. was received by the Government ;
- (c) on what specific grounds the districts of Hissar and Hoshiarpur were selected finally for the consolidation work ;
- (d) whether the Government have under consideration a scheme for the consolidation of holdings in the model villages of every district in the State ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a)	1.	Ambala	...	...	...	185717	acres.
	2.	Karnal	...	...	...	96570	acres.
	3.	Rohtak	...	...	...	24100	acres.
	4.	Gurgaon	...	...	...	4129	acres.
	5.	Jullundur	...	...	...	215112	acres.
	6.	Hoshiarpur.	...	...	...	154875	acres.
	7.	Kangra	...	...	...	9553	acres.
	8.	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	72340	acres.
	9.	Amritsar	...	...	...	42121	acres.
	10.	Ludhiana	...	...	...	212499	acres.
	11.	Ferozepore	...	...	...	117071	acres.
	12.	Hissar	...	...	...	...
	13.	Simla	...	...	...	...

[Minister for Education]

- (b) Yes
- (c) Hoshiarpur District was selected on the recommendation of the Cho Menace Committee appointed by Government. Hissar District is receiving no priority over others.
- (d) The Government is considering this question.

POSTING OF ASSISTANT PANCHAYAT OFFICERS

420. Pandit Jiwan Lal : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names together with the name of the home tehsil and district and the circle of posting of each Assistant Panchayat Officer in the Ambala Division ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one Ch. Shankar Singh, posted in his home tehsil of Palwal was transferred to some other district on the basis of complaints made by the public ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Panchayat Officer mentioned in part (b) above has been retransferred to Tehsil Ballabgarh adjoining to his home Tehsil ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that there are again complaints against him ;
- (e) if the replies to part (b) and (d) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government propose to revise its policy of posting the Assistant Panchayat Officers in their home tehsils and Districts ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) List is laid on the table.*

(b) The Assistant Panchayat Officer was transferred to Jagadhari in 1946, but not on account of any complaint against him.

- (c) Yes.
- (d) No.
- (e) Does not arise.

THE BALLABGARH FEMALE HOSPITAL

421. Pandit Jiwan Lal : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the date on which the Government propose to start the construction of Female Hospital at Ballab Garh, District Gurgaon.

*Kept in the Library

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : Necessary preliminaries e.g. plans and estimates for construction of the Female Hospital at Ballab Garh are being completed. Government is, however, keen to start the construction work as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS

422. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that before confirmation in a substantive post in the Agriculture Department every Agricultural Assistant has to pass a riding test ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Agricultural Assistants who keep no horse get no horse allowance ;
- (c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government has under consideration or propose to consider removal of this condition ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The Agricultural Assistants, especially those employed on district work, have to do a lot of touring in the country side and unless they know riding, they cannot perform their duties efficiently.

SINKING OF TUBEWELLS

423. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total grant of subsidy from Central Government to the Punjab for sinking tubewells under the 'grow more food' Scheme ;
- (b) the share of each district and reasons for priority, if any ;
- (c) whether the Government would consider giving priority in this connection to the Gurgaon District on account of its being both arid and at the tail of the Bhakra Nangal project ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) The following amounts from the loan sanctioned by Government of India have been

placed at the disposal of Irrigation and Agriculture Departments during the year 1949-50 for tubewells schemes :

	Rs.
Irrigation Department.	11,00,600
Agriculture Department.	20,00,000

The Irrigation Department will sink tubewells under Jagadhari Tubewell Project, in Ambala and Karnal Districts and the water so pumped will be supplied to Rohtak and Hissar districts. This scheme has been proposed in Ambala and Karnal districts as it will give the additional benefit of reclaiming waterlogged areas along the main canal and its Branches.

(b) No definite amount is allotted to any district for this purpose but the material will be made available on payment to the prospective tubewell sinkers, by the Agriculture Department.

(c) The cases of applicants from Gurgaon District will be considered on merits.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS

424. **Pandit Jiwan Lal :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Government provided in its programme for the construction of roads in the year 1948-49, the road from Ballabgarh to Gurgaon ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Tehsil Ballabgarh has no metalled road except the National highway (G. T. Road) :
- (c) whether the Government has been approached for a number of years by the large number of ex-militarymen from Tigaon, for the metalling of Ballabgarh-Tigaon road nearly six miles long ;
- (d) if the replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government is prepared to include these two important roads in the programme for developing metalled roads in the rural areas for 1950-51 ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Some representations were received.

(d) Due to financial stringency, it is not possible to include the construction of these roads in the programme for 1950-51.

REPRESENTATION OF HARIJANS AMONG CLERKS.

425. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Junior and Senior Clerks appointed in all the departments under the Punjab Government after November, 1949 ;
- (b) the number and the proportion of Harijans amongst them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected and shall be supplied in due course.

GRANT OF CONCESSIONS TO HARIJAN STUDENTS.

426. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of schools and colleges which have not given concessions to Harijan students according to the Harijan Welfare Scheme ;
- (b) whether the Government intend to take any action against, the authorities of such schools and colleges as have, so far not given concessions to Harijan students according to the above mentioned Scheme ; and if so, when ;
- (c) the number of Harijan students in the Punjab who have been given fee concession and the number of those who have been awarded scholarships ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) No particular institution has been brought to the notice of Government in which the concessions have not been given to the Harijan students.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) Number of Harijan students who have been given fee concessions : 3277.

(ii) Number of Harijan students who have been awarded scholarships : 3057.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR HARIJANS IN THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

427. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether in accordance with the speech of the hon. Minister

Master Gurbanta Singh :

for Local Self Government and Labour made on the 14th February at Jullundur, seats will be reserved for Harijans in the Police Department ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : No record of the speech of hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour is available. It may, however, be stated that pending determination of the exact percentage of Scheduled Caste population in the Punjab, 15 per cent vacancies in all services, including the Police Department, are being earmarked for Scheduled Caste candidates, provided suitable material for filling such appointments is available out of the Scheduled Caste candidates

HARIJANS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

428. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Harijans employed in the Police Department before the Partition ;

(b) whether any one of them has got a promotion ; if so, who and to what extent and if not ; the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 38 (as Foot Constables Time Scale).

(b) 9.

Hoshiarpur district : Amin Chand promoted to Head Constable and Gobind Singh promoted to Foot Constable Selection Grade.

Ludhiana district : Gurnam Singh, Bawa Ram and Gurdial Singh promoted to Foot Constables Selection Grade.

Amritsar district : Thakar Dass and Rana Singh promoted to Head Constables Ravel Chand and Harbhajan Singh promoted to Foot Constables Selection Grade.

The rest did not qualify for promotion.

NOMINATED MEMBERS OF LOCAL BODIES

429. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of members nominated to the various Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab after the Partition ;

[Master Gurbachan Singh]

- (b) the number of those nominated members of District Boards who reside within the municipal limits but have been nominated as such ;
- (c) the number of those who reside in the rural areas but have been nominated as members of municipal committee ;
- (d) the number and names of Harijans nominated to both kinds of bodies together with the names of places from where they have been nominated ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : A statement giving the required information is attached.*

PROFESSIONAL TAX

437. Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state : —

- (a) the excess of Professional Tax levied in each District Board in the State during this year over that of the last year ;
- (b) whether this excess is due to an increase in the tax scale or whether the number of tax payers has increased ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of any irregularities committed in the levy of the tax ; if so, whether the Government intends to put a stop to these irregularities ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) and (b). The statement is attached.

(c) Complaints have been received from some of the districts containing allegations about irregularities committed in assessment of tax and Government are looking into the individual complaints, as well as, considering the amendment of rules to give a greater chance to the assesseses to prefer their appeals.

S No.	Name of the Dist- rict.	Excess of profes- sion tax levied this year over that of last year.	Whether the excess is due to an increase in the tax scale or the number of tax payers.
1.	Rohtak.	Rs. 140252	The excess is due to increase both in the scale and the tax payers.
2.	Ambala.	Rs. 3942	The excess is due to increase both in the tax scale and the tax payers.

*Kept in the Library.

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|-----|--------------|--|---|
| 3. | Karnal. | Rs. 6000 | Due to increase in the number of tax payers |
| 4. | Simla. | Profession tax is not levied in this district. | |
| 5. | Gurgaon. | Rs. 175522 | The excess is due to increase both in the tax scale and the tax payers. |
| 6. | Hissar. | Profession tax is not levied in this district. | |
| 7. | Amritsar | Rs. 78,889 | Due to increase in the number of tax payers. |
| 8. | Ludhiana | Rs. 32,175 | Due to increase in the number of tax payers. |
| 9. | Feroze-pore. | Rs. 14,802 | Due to increase in the number of tax payers. |
| 10. | Hoshiarpur. | Rs. 44,385 | Due to increase both in the tax scale and the tax payers. |
| 11. | Kangra. | Rs. 5748 | Increase due to increase in the tax scale. |
| 12. | Jullundur. | Rs. 20,000 | Due to increase in the number of tax payers. |

PRIVILEGE MOTION

MISREPORTING BY NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed to the next item on the agenda I have to inform the House that an hon. Member, Mehta Ranbir Singh, has brought to my notice certain points in the proceedings of the House that have been misreported by some newspapers. I assure the hon. Member that I will examine the point whether there is a breach of privilege of the House or not and also whether the proceedings were misreported and if there has been a misreporting whether it was intentional or not.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I brought this fact to your notice in your Chamber. Under the Rules of procedure this motion should have preference over every other motion, because it is a motion of privilege of the House. With your permission I would like to move this motion formally in the House?

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary that the hon. Member should move the motion on the floor of the House. The fact that he has brought it to my notice in my room is sufficient and I assure him and the House that I will go through all the newspaper reports and find out whether the proceedings have been mis-reported and also decide whether the mis-reporting was intentional. After going through the newspaper reports I will decide whether there has been a breach of privilege of the House or not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I request you, Sir, to read what the hon Member has placed in your hands so that the House may know whether it is merely a request or a formal motion ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon Member brought to my notice that certain newspapers while reporting the proceedings of the Assembly have stated that the hon. Member was turned out of the House by the Chair and that as a matter of fact that was not the case. The hon. Member has further stated that that is an insinuation and is a breach of the privileges of this honourable House. As I have not gone through these newspapers, I will go through them and then I will be in a position to say whether there has been any misreporting, and if so, whether that misreporting is intentional and is a reflection on the hon. Member and whether there has been any breach of privilege.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I draw your attention to Rule 46 which lays down—

A motion on a question of privilege suddenly arising is entitled to immediate precedence over all other business.

Unless a formal motion is allowed to be moved in the House, this matter cannot be properly dealt with.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar . May I repeat my request that whatever the hon. Member has placed in your hands be read out to the House ? Is there any motion before the House ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Of course there is as yet no motion before the House and unless the House is acquainted with what I want to move, it is not in a position to judge whether there has been any breach of privilege. The motion reads—

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has drawn my attention and I have informed him that I will go through the newspapers and it is only after doing so that I can decide whether there has been any misreporting and whether that is intentional or not. As a matter of fact I would like to appoint a Committee, if the House wants it, and that Committee can go into the question of privileges of the House and all such questions can be referred to that Committee.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon Member may be permitted to read his motion because it is a matter which concerns the privileges of this honourable House. If it constitutes any inroads into the privileges of the House, let the Chair decide that. The Chair can, if that be the opinion of the Chair, rule the motion out of order but all this can be done if the hon. Member is permitted to move his motion.

Mr. Speaker : Today being the day for the presentation of the Budget, I think it would better if the hon. Member moves his motion tomorrow.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If that be your wish, Sir, I have no objection to moving this motion tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Sardar Partap Singh : I rise to make a personal explanation. Sardar Sajjan Singh has hinted that I drew my T. A. for attending the session of the All India Congress Committee at Jaipur. In this connection I want to make my position clear. I sent a letter to the hon. Premier about that and I was told that I could draw my T. A.

Chief Minister : It is for me to reply to that.

Sardar Partap Singh : During the months of January, February and March, 1949, I along with other hon. Ministers surrendered Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 which was due to us as T. A. My submission is that there was absolutely no question of greed or anything of that sort on my part in drawing the T. A. in connection with the journey to Jaipur. If, however, that be considered objectionable, I am prepared to refund the amount even now.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

Chief Minister, The Hon'ble Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, SIR,

I RISE to present the Budget Estimates for the year 1950-51—the first Estimates for the State of Punjab under the new constitution of India. Almost a month and a half ago India declared herself a sovereign Democratic Republic and resolved to secure to all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, thus assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation. This declaration was, indeed, one of the most outstanding features in World History, as it brought forth into the comity of nations the youngest Republic. Young in the political sense, but with the tradition and culture of the ages behind us, we stand resolved to bring our influence on the side of peace in this strife-torn world. The Greatest among us left a message of peace and goodwill, which he practised even by laying down his life, and we, who survive him, and on whom devolve the responsibilities of guiding the State Government to day, have to stand firmly by his ideals and have to endeavour and banish fanaticism and class hatred from our midst. And as I utter these words here to-day, I am conscious how great is the need of unity among us all, at this juncture. Our State has come through a terrible ordeal of blood and fire, and we were just beginning to settle down after the catastrophe which befell the Punjab, after partition, when the rumblings of what may be very evil portents are beginning to be heard in Bengal, the only other partitioned Province. We are on the border and we cannot but be anxious. We want to wage no war; we have no aggressive intentions against any nation in the world—least of all against our neighbours and much less against those who only the other day were a part of us, and we do most sincerely hope that having agreed to part we will live as good neighbours!

As is customary, before I place before the House the Estimates for 1950-51, I will review here very briefly the financial picture of 1948-49 and 1949-50. For detailed information about the accounts (so far available) for 1948-49 and the revised estimates for 1949-50, the Hon'ble Members are referred to the very full and able Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. I will confine myself, here, to only the very salient features of these two years' finances.

1948-49

When the Budget for the year 1948-49 was presented, a deficit of Rs. 6.69 lakhs was indicated; Revenue Receipts were estimated at Rs. 11.13 lakhs, and the estimated Revenue Expenditure was Rs. 17.82 lakhs. When revised estimates were available, at about this time last year, a larger deficit of Rs. 10.88 lakhs was anticipated mainly on account of increase in the Relief and Rehabilitation expenditure. Revenue Receipts were expected to improve from Rs. 11.13 lakhs to Rs. 13.46 lakhs, but Revenue Expenditure, on the other hand, was estimated to increase from 17.82 lakhs to Rs. 24.34 lakhs. The actual accounts (though not final) falsified these anticipations. According to the figures available at present the Revenue Account shows a surplus of Rs. 1.15 lakhs, but even after carrying out all the anticipated adjustments this revenue account is not likely to show a deficit anywhere near that forecasted in the Revised Estimates. The figures available indicate an improvement of Rs. 3.43 lakhs in Revenue

Receipts and a drop of Rs. 8,60 lakhs in Revenue Expenditure. The main increase in Revenue Receipts is under 'Miscellaneous', where a reimbursement by the Government of India of Expenditure incurred on Relief and Rehabilitation during the previous year (1947-48) and increased miscellaneous receipts of the Rehabilitation Department have contributed a betterment of something like Rs. 3 crores. On the Expenditure side the drop of over Rs. 8 crores, again under 'Miscellaneous', is also under Relief and Rehabilitation Expenditure, some of which was not fully brought into account because debits on account of Rail Transport and Clothing of refugees were not received before the close of the year's accounts.

1949-50

At the time of the presentation of the Budget for the year 1949-50 a deficit of Rs. 8,55 lakhs was expected. Revenue Receipts were estimated at Rs. 14,37 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure Rs. 22,92 lakhs. According to the Revised Estimates now available, Receipts are expected to rise to Rs. 17,24 lakhs, while Revenue Expenditure is expected to drop to Rs. 16,83 lakhs, leaving a surplus of 41 lakhs. The Revenue Receipts show a betterment of Rs. 2,87 lakhs, which is made up of the following important increases :—

Taxes on Income (Rs. 24 lakhs). An increase or decrease under this head depends upon the amount of "Divisible Proceeds" worked out by the Government of India. Our share is expected to be better by this amount as a result of an increase in the amount of the available "Divisible Proceeds".

Land Revenue (Gross) (Rs. 17 lakhs). This represents recoveries of arrears due from previous accounts mainly from Muslim landlords. Lesser remissions of land revenue than originally anticipated have also contributed to this increase.

Provincial Excise (Rs. 12 lakhs). The increase is mainly from opium as a result of better bids at auctions and greater realisations from sale-proceeds of excise opium.

Other Taxes and Duties (Rs. 50 lakhs). The enforcement of the new Sales Tax Act accounts for this. The tax is required to be paid in advance at the time Returns are filed. These advance payments are mainly responsible for larger receipts under this head.

Agriculture (Rs. 18 lakhs). Recoveries in respect of distribution of ammonium sulphate account for Rs. 10 lakhs; sale proceeds of seeds Rs. 2 lakhs and hire of tractors Rs. 3 lakhs. Other smaller variations are responsible for the remaining increase of Rs. 3 lakhs.

Electricity Schemes (Rs. 20 lakhs). The increase under Gross Receipts (Rs. 11 lakhs) is due to better utilization of power made available from West Punjab and to larger recoveries for the energy

[Chief Minister]

supplied to that Government than originally estimated. The decrease in working expenses has contributed another Rs. 11 lakhs, because of the reduced provision made for maintenance, depreciation, reserve fund, establishment charges, etc. The total increase of Rs. 22 lakhs, however, has been set off to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs on account of the delay in putting some of the thermal schemes in operation.

Miscellaneous (Rs. 1,26 lakhs). The increase is made up of several items, of which the Miscellaneous Receipts of the Custodian and Rehabilitation Department account for Rs. 99 lakhs, and surcharge levied by the Food and Civil Supplies Department Rs. 23 lakhs.

On the Expenditure side the decrease of Rs. 6,09 lakhs is mainly spread over—

	(In lakhs of Rupees)
Debt Heads	... +12
General Administration	... +14
Police	... -16
Civil Works	... -13
Pensions	... +18
Miscellaneous	... -6,27

Debt Heads (Rs. + 12 lakhs). In the original budget no provision could be made for payment of interest charges on loans taken from the Government of India as the terms of the same were not settled at the time the budget was framed. These have now been intimated and payment has been made on this account.

General Administration (Rs. + 14 lakhs). The increase is made up of several variations. Legislative Assembly, Civil Secretariat and Financial Commissioner, each accounts for Rs. 2 lakhs. Another sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is accounted for by the staff, etc., provided in the Financial Commissioner's Office and in districts in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign.

Police (Rs. - 16 lakhs). The expenditure on National Volunteer Corps was reduced as a measure of economy, by Rs. 25 lakhs but this has been set off to the extent of Rs. 9 lakhs under District Executive Force, mainly due to the revision of scale of pay of lower subordinates, purchase of Ordnance Stores in connection with village defence scheme and purchase of vehicles.

Civil Works (Rs. - 13 lakhs). As a result of the economy campaign expenditure on works had to be reduced. Some of the works for which provision was made in the original budget were, therefore, postponed.

Pensions (Rs. + 18 lakhs). The increase is mainly on account of the pensions paid to pre-partitioned Punjab pensioners, now residing in the Indian Union. We had assumed that this liability would fall initially on West Punjab, but the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal regarding the

apportionment of pensionary liabilities between the two Punjabs, has placed the initial responsibility for all pensioners drawing pensions in India on us, and those of others on West Punjab, till actuarial calculations make a distribution of this liability in the agreed ratio possible.

Miscellaneous (Rs. — 6,27 lakhs). Of the total saving of Rs. 6 crores a sum of Rs. 3,60 lakhs is due to change in the classification of expenditure on house-building schemes of the Rehabilitation Department from Revenue Section to Capital Section of Accounts. A further saving of Rs. 59 lakhs has been contributed mainly by the stoppage of gratuitous relief to displaced persons living in the general relief camps. Free distribution of food and clothing, except in the case of inmates of unattached Women's Homes and Infirmarys, was stopped by the end of October 1949. Another saving of Rs. 2 crores is really a reduction in our expenditure due to reimbursement of Relief and Rehabilitation expenditure from the Union Government. These savings have been counter-balanced partly on account of the decision to transfer the receipts on account of surcharge levied to cover losses from fall in prices of foodgrains to the newly opened head "Foodgrains Reserve Fund" and partly by the New Expenditure anticipated to be incurred on the Home Defence Department (a new organisation set up for training of the public in civil defence).

No review of the year 1949-50, however, would be complete without a brief reference to the very important events that have taken place during that year. First and foremost I would like to refer here to the decision which was taken by India to remain within the Commonwealth — as a full and equal member of it. This was a wise decision indeed, for the future prosperity and happiness of the world lies in a healthy co-operation between various nations and the Commonwealth idea is an important mile-stone towards the ideal of "one world". Next in importance from the world context I would put the Hon'ble Prime Minister's American tour which put India definitely on the map as a world power.

Nor were our achievements on the Home front of any less significance. The integration of the States so successfully and ably accomplished by our beloved Sardar has been rightly acclaimed as the most outstanding administrative achievement of the century. More than anything else that achievement will contribute to the future greatness of India.

These were achievements on the political and administrative front of which any nation could well be proud. Our work in the economic sphere, however, has nothing so spectacular to its credit. On the economic vicissitudes of a State, world forces have far greater influence than on its administrative and political policy. It is also true, perhaps, that the attention of our leaders at the Centre, was mainly taken up by the very pressing political and administrative problems that they had to contend with and therefore economic policy of the country could not claim all the attention it deserved. That certainly appears to have been the case in the first year or so of our Independence. But during the last year the urgency of action on the economic-cum-financial front

[Chief Minister]

was fully realized and the entire policy of Government in these spheres was reviewed in detail in September 1949, and an eight-point programme was chalked out, which aimed chiefly at checking the inflationary trends in the economy of the country. It is in the background of the financial and economic analysis placed before the country in the Union Government's Eight-point Programme that our budget has been framed, for all our economic and financial policies of any consequence must be in line with those of the Union Government.

Before I place before the House the Budget Estimates for 1950-51, I am sure the House expects me to review briefly the activities of the various Government Departments so as to give them an idea of what we have done during the year, which is about to close, and what we propose to do during the next financial year, which is about to begin.

RELIEF & REHABILITATION

First of all I will touch upon Relief and Rehabilitation of the displaced population—a matter which has been the concern of this Government ever since partition. We had at one time a total population of over 7 lakhs in the various refugee camps in our State but by April, 1949 this had fallen (exclusive of Kurukshetra, Rajpura and Faridabad camps) to nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. We hope that with the completion of the quasi-permanent allotment of evacuee agricultural lands, this population would further fall to about 80,000.

The task of the quasi-permanent allotment of land has proved by no means an easy one. By the end of March 1949, the exchange of revenue records with West Punjab was completed for nearly 15,000 villages out of a total of 17,000 of which the records had to be exchanged. During April the work of *Chhant Jamabandi*, verification of parcha claims, and consolidation of the various claims of persons who held land in more than one village in West Punjab, was started and this took about 3 months to complete. Then we passed on to the allotment stage, allocating the areas to be allotted, earmarking claims for villages, allotment of Khasra Nos., preparation of allotment orders, etc. This province owes a great debt of gratitude to the indefatigable efforts of Sardar Tarlok Singh and the mature guidance of Shri Thapar which made the effective tackling of this herculean task possible.

Some times in the middle of 1949 the Government of India took a decision to gradually reduce the scale of gratuitous relief in camps with a view to stopping it altogether by the 1st of November 1949. A programme of gradual reduction of camp population, therefore, was introduced with effect from the beginning of July 1949 and to begin with, rations other than wheat atta, were substituted by cash allowances. Subsequently, by the end of October, 1949, both cash allowances and free wheat atta were discontinued. Along with this, free issue of clothing to displaced persons residing in camps, was also stopped. Unattached women and children, the infirm and the aged, however, continue to be cared for and are being issued free rations in special homes established at Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Karnal and Rohtak. In these homes, educational facilities are being provid-

ed for children and training in various domestic crafts is imparted to ladies. The infirm and the aged are housed in Infirmaries set up in various relief camps of the province and nearly 900 infirm and aged men and women have been lodged in such Infirmaries which run on a semi-hospital basis. It is now contemplated to concentrate all such aged and infirm persons in the Kurukshetra camp.

While stopping free food and the issue of free clothing, Government did not forget the necessity of providing roofed shelter to these unfortunate homeless ones and undertook to construct cheap mud-huts at the sites of the present camps, where amenities of water-supply and electric street lighting were already available. Nearly 8,000 mud-huts have since been constructed as against the target of 13,200 and in these 40,000 souls have already found shelter.

With the completion of the allotment work by the end of March, the work of rural rehabilitation during the coming year would lie chiefly in the direction of giving possessions of land allotted, providing loans to enable the allottees to take up effective cultivation, dealing with applications for review and revision arising from any mistakes in the allotment already made, and the preparation of records to incorporate the result of the quasi-permanent settlement of evacuee land.

The completion, therefore, of rural rehabilitation may well be said to be in sight. But I wish I could say the same about urban rehabilitation. Urban rehabilitation presents a very difficult problem. The main difficulty so far has been our inability to get suitable settlement of the property issue. The other difficulty lies in the fact that the displaced Hindus and Sikhs mainly constituted the trading class whereas the economic void which they have to fill is of artisans, craftsmen, mechanics and the labourers. The change-over is not easy, more particularly when a change of hereditary profession is involved. Therein lies the chief problem before the Government and by its solution alone would the shattered economy of this State be put on a sound basis again.

Nor are we forgetting our big industrialists. The number of evacuee factories and industrial establishments was far too inadequate to meet their requirements. But trusting in their initiative and enterprise, we are providing new industrial townships at various places in centres like Panipat, Bahadurgarh, Jagadhari, Sonapat, Ludhiana and Jullundur. It is up to them to make all these ventures a success. That will be their contribution towards setting our homeland on its feet again.

The number of evacuee houses was also insufficient to accommodate the displaced persons who had come over to live in our urban areas. The urban habitable evacuee houses available on this side were 111,482. Not only are these far fewer in numbers than those left behind by our displaced population but these were of a much poorer quality also. For filling up the gaps in the urban accommodation nearly 4,000 houses in 11 townships have already been constructed and another 6,800 sites have been laid in the vicinity of these townships. These houses will cater to the needs of middle and upper middle classes.

[Chief Minister]

The rural evacuee houses available were 668,323. A large destruction of rural houses took place at the time of migration and it is estimated that the number of houses totally destroyed was 225,539, and partially destroyed 125,227. We contemplate setting up model villages for rural re-housing.

For working classes with low income groups a scheme of cheap houses is envisaged which aims at the provision of 6,150 building sites at various places in the Province, and in addition contemplates the creation of 10,000 eight-marla plots.

These are only very brief indications of what we propose to do. I sincerely wish that we had the wherewithal to do more but we shall keep on striving to place our very best at the service of our displaced brethren.

Grow-More-Food Campaign

Although the Grow-More-Food Campaign was started during the Second World War, the results achieved by it were of a doubtful nature. At least the public believed that nothing more than a carrot or two had been added to the available food supplies of the country by those efforts ! It was not till the middle of 1949, shortly after the stirring call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the need for increased food production, that this work was taken up by us on a "Top Priority" basis. A Cabinet Sub-Committee on Increased Food Production was set up in order to avoid red-tapism in the execution of Grow-More-Food Schemes. A Director of Food Production (of the rank of a Financial Commissioner) was appointed to be in charge of this important work, and Deputy Commissioners were made fully responsible for it in their own districts. Schemes costing about Rs. 1,58 lakhs during the year 1949-50 were put in operation and it is proposed to continue this work at a cost of Rs. 1,80 lakhs during the year 1950-51. Additional canal irrigation that has been made possible by the newly sanctioned Grow-More-Food Schemes is as follows :—

	<i>Acres</i>
Kharif, 1950	... 2½ lakhs
Rabi, 1950-51	... 95,000
Kharif, 1951	... 340,000
Rabi, 1951-52	... 180,000

It is expected that the additional areas so brought under irrigation will have given us an additional food production of about 40,000 tons during 1949-50, and about 70,000 tons during 1950-51. In arriving at these estimates we have not taken into consideration the gains that will accrue to our food production from the destruction of monkeys, jackals and other pests; the pitting of village manure, and the use of pure seed, etc. etc. These schemes will certainly add to our available supplies of

food, but the estimates given above exclude any allowances on this account, because these could not be calculated with any degree of accuracy, and also because it may be argued that these methods had been used by farmers during previous years also, though not in the same intensity in which we are enforcing them now.

Before I pass on, let me say a word here on the killing of monkeys. Objection has been taken here and there to our doing so. I think it is time that we took a rational view of these things and set sentiments aside. Is it better to let human beings starve and these pests thrive? In the case of monkeys alone it has been moderately estimated that they consume something like 60,000 tons of grain, apart from what they destroy, which is by no means insignificant. The loss caused to grain by rats, jackals, and other pests cannot be computed with any degree of exactitude, but it will by no means be small. Government did not, however, like to ride rough-shod over public sentiment and have, therefore, decided to disband the shooting squads. Owners of fields would be encouraged, by the grant of suitable awards, to kill these animals with a view to save their crops.

The Irrigation Branch, in addition to having raised the banks of channels and having passed additional supplies of water through them for making increased irrigation possible, have taken over the Shah Nahar Canal in the Hoshiarpur district, and Grey Canals in the Ferozepore district, which are being remodelled to supply water for perennial irrigation. Kirn Nala in the Gurdaspur district is also being remodelled with regular channels, and all these measures will supply irrigation to more than 50,000 acres during 1950-51.

Nor is mechanical cultivation being neglected. We have already got 139 tractors and steps are being taken to acquire more. With these we propose to tackle first the *Bet* areas, in order to make that area fit for follow-up cultivation by bullock and man-power. Within the limited means of our resources we have provided facilities for the sinking of percolation and tube-wells and tube-well sinking machinery worth about Rs. 30 lakhs has been purchased. About Rs. 35 lakhs have been spent on tractors and tractor cultivation and about Rs. 21 lakhs on loans for percolation wells.

Civil Supplies and Food Department.

The house is, no doubt, aware of the activities of the Civil Supplies and Food Department which deals primarily with the control and distribution of certain essential commodities which to-day are in short supply. On some commodities control has been imposed by the Central Government and in this category fall—

- (a) Cotton ;
- (b) Cotton Textiles ;
- (c) Yarn ;
- (d) Coal/Coke (Steam Coal, Soft Coke, Hard Coke and Slack

[Chief Minister]

Coal) :

- (e) Pig Iron ;
- (f) Cement ;
- (g) Salt ;
- (h) Vegetable Ghee ; and
- (i) Sugar.

In respect of these commodities the Provincial Government have to follow the policy laid down by the Central Government.

In addition to these commodities, the Provincial Government have controlled at their own discretion the following commodities ;—

- (a) Kerosene Oil ;
- (b) Firewood ; and
- (c) Bricks.

I am glad to be able to report to the House that the control on kerosene oil has worked very satisfactorily, and it is one of those commodities which is being delivered to the villager at the very door of his house. Kerosene oil in the villages is distributed by a retailer who goes from village to village and delivers the oil to villagers in the presence of a member of that village on the Circle Distribution Committee. It is only right that if we have to succeed in persuading the farmer to part with his produce at a reasonable rate, we should have been able to deliver to him his ordinary needs, without much difficulty, at a controlled price.

The firewood position is extremely difficult in this State. It was not an easy one even in the United Punjab, who could draw on the rich forest plantations at Chhangamanga, Chichawatni, Khanewal, etc. It has been estimated by the Forest Department that this State is deficit in firewood to the tune of 40 to 50 lakh maunds, and while a long range policy of encouraging forest plantations has been taken in hand, steps to meet the immediate shortage could only be successful by a proper control of firewood, for which purpose we have issued the following orders under the East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies Act, 1949 :—

- (i) The East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies (Licensing of Dealers) Order, 1949 ;
- (ii) The East Punjab Conservation of Firewood (Restrictions on Consumption in Factories and Kilns) Order, 1949 ; and
- (iii) The East Punjab Conservation of Firewood Supplies (Res onson on Transport) Order, 1949.

Under the above-mentioned Orders the control is on distribution and movement of firewood and not on its price.

Brick control was considered necessary when supplies of slack coal were limited and brick kiln owners were known to be exploiting that position. This was a natural corollary to the control of slack coal and was also necessary because of the construction of more houses for the rehabilitation of our displaced population was to be successful, it was essential that the public should get bricks at reasonable rates.

Besides the above items of Civil Supplies, which are controlled at present, we have, as the House is aware, a complete food control. All important foodgrains coming to the market are purchased by Government under a Monopoly Procurement Scheme. During the last crop year (1948-49) the success of our Monopoly Procurement Scheme was beyond our expectation and we were able to buy foodgrain stocks as shown below. —

		<i>Target figure fixed</i>	<i>Actual purchases made</i>
		Tons	Tons
Wheat	...	161,500	217,000
Rice	...	12,000	15,662

This year rice crop was better and our purchase target has been fixed at 55,000 tons. Against this figure we have already procured 81,000 tons of paddy which will yield about 50,000 tons of rice. The target of 32,500 tons fixed for barley is, however, not likely to be achieved, since only 17,860 tons had been procured up to the end of February 1950. The "finance" tied up in these operations has been as much as Rs. 10 crores at times.

In view of the over-all deficit of foodgrains full rationing was introduced in 20 major towns, controlled distribution in 7 other towns, and for the rest the Deficit Areas Food Supply Scheme was put in operation. These rationing systems have, on the whole, worked successfully. Measures to prevent the smuggling of foodgrains, cloth and other commodities from the Punjab, were a necessary corollary of controls and special anti smuggling and enforcement staff was posted in ten districts of the Province (excluding Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Jullundur, where smuggling is not much of a problem). In addition to preventing the smuggling of controlled commodities, this staff devoted considerable attention to eradicate black-marketing through the agency of bogus purchasers. It is gratifying to observe that our enforcement organization has more than justified its existence. 2,243 cases, connected with the contravention of various control orders, were detected by this organization. Out of these, 2,067 cases were put in courts and of these 1,216 cases have already resulted in convictions. In addition to this, goods of the value of about Rs 6 lakhs were captured during the ten months ending January last which amount equals almost the total cost of the Enforcement staff.

[Chief Minister]

A suggestion which is now before Government's active consideration is for distribution of controlled commodities through Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Buildings and Roads Branch. The fairly full programme of works originally set for the Buildings and Roads Branch for the year 1949-50 had to be substantially curtailed in pursuance of the anti-inflationary drive launched all over the country by the Government of India. On the buildings side, however, we had to take steps to extend the available jail accommodation. Steps were also taken to provide for the expansion of the Government colleges at Rupar, Ludhiana and Rohtak. Additional accommodation was also provided in hospitals like Glancy Medical College and the Mental Hospital, both at Amritsar.

At Ferozepore enormous damage was done to Government buildings during the floods of September 1947. The construction work on District Court buildings, District and Sessions Judge's Court, P. W. D. Rest-House and the Central Jail there is well in hand.

Besides buildings, roads claimed the major consideration of the Department. A 50 miles length of the Grand Trunk Road has been widened from 12 to 22 feet and a number of other roads projects were also taken in hand during the year, but work on some of these had to be held up for want of funds.

Public Health Engineering were responsible for the completion of the biggest rural water-supply scheme in India—namely, the Bet Ilaga water-supply in the Hoshiarpur district. This scheme will serve a population of 35,000 persons residing in over 50 villages where the existing arrangements for water supply were most unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear)

The Public Health Engineering Department also put up two tube-wells (yielding about 4 lac gallons of water daily) for the Amritsar Municipality and another (yielding about 1½ lac gallons of water per day) for the Ambala Municipal Committee. Water supply and drainage schemes are also in hand at the new Nangal township.

The work of planning the future Capital of the Punjab at Chandigarh has gone apace and Mr. Albert Mayer has been entrusted with the task of preparing a masterplan. After the necessary planning has been completed, steps will be taken to explore the best possible means of financing the construction of the New Capital. A provision of Rs. 1½ crores has, however, been made in the next year's budget for expenditure on this venture.

Electricity Branch. The activities of the Electricity Branch have been concentrated on the laying of additional lines in various places in the Province to absorb the electric energy released from West Punjab as also to the acquiring of the electric supply undertakings at Moga, Abohar, Karnal and Fazilka.

Work on the Nangal Project is proceeding apace and orders worth Rs. 4 crores have been placed for electrical equipment and transmission line on Nangal Delhi Section, pegging of the towers positions and route survey of the 66 k.w. lines have been completed in most of the Sections.

Irrigation Branch. As I have also indicated in an earlier part of this speech all possible efforts were made to increase irrigation during Kharif, 1949, by running additional supplies of water in all channels, over and above their authorized discharges. The resultant increase in irrigation during Kharif, 1949, over the figure of Kharif, 1948, was of over $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakh acres. On the Eastern Canal alone, the area under rice rose from 12,000 acres to 27,000 acres.

It is expected that all the various schemes taken in hand for Grow-More-Food purposes will almost be completed by the end of the next year and additional supplies will be run in all channels during Kharif, 1950.

With a view to safeguard a large number of villages in Panipat and Sonapat Tahsils from flood, embankments have been constructed. Drainage of low-lying areas on the Western Jumna and Sirhind Canals has also been undertaken and schemes for draining areas along various villages in Karnal, Rohtak and Ludhiana districts have been prepared. The serious damage caused to the training works by torrents crossing Sirhind Canal by the floods of 1949 has also been properly repaired.

Bhakra-Nangal Project. The Bhakra-Nangal Project is now a household word in our State. According to the latest proposals, the Dam at Bhakra will be 1,680 feet above the lowest foundation level across the Sutlej River in a gorge nearly 50 miles above Rupar Weir, with a live storage capacity of 73 million acre feet of water. This Project will add to the production of the Province by 1.3 million tons of foodgrains and 8 lakh bales of long staple cotton in addition to increasing the production of sugarcane, oilseeds and various other crops.

A railway line and a road from Rupar to Nangal (excepting the road bridge over Srsa Nadi) have been completed. The road from Nangal to Bhakra, too, has been constructed and the railway line between these two places is nearing completion.

The Nangal Dam is under construction about 8 miles below the Bhakra Dam. Fifty per cent of the work of construction of the Dam, together with the head-regulator has been completed and a major part of concreting the floors will be finished by the end of June 1950.

The Nangal Hydel Channel which takes off upstream of Nangal Dam, when constructed, will be capable of carrying 12,500 cusecs of water. Two power-houses with a power capacity of 72,000 k.w. each will be located on this channel. At present drainage works likely to cost Rs. 16 crores and the work of excavation of foundation pits of power house No. 1 are in progress.

[Chief Minister]

The Bhakra Canal takes off at the tail of the Nangal Hydrel Channel at Rupar and will provide irrigation to the existing areas under Grey Canals and also to the famine-stricken areas of Rohtak and Hissar districts and the adjoining States. The excavation work on these channels is well in hand.

In the field of Engineering Education, we have had no satisfactory arrangement to meet the present and future needs of the Province ever since partition. We look forward, as soon as Bhakra and Nangal Schemes go ahead, to have progressive mechanization of industry and agriculture necessitating a large number of technical personnel. The demand for an Engineering College was reiterated by the President of the Punjab Branch of the Institution of Engineers last month and I am glad to be able to announce that arrangements are under way in this direction and it is hoped that, if all goes well as I expect, foundations will have been laid during the year of a first class and most modern institution imparting education in electrical, mechanical, civil and also architectural engineering to our young men. (*Hear hear*)

EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT

The Excise and Taxation Department is our chief revenue-earning department. From the date of partition to the 31st March 1948, our income from Excise and Taxation amounted to about Rs 1.33 lacs (7½ months). During 1948-49, it rose to about Rs. 3 crores. The original budget for 1949-50 estimated this revenue at roughly Rs 3½ crores, its revised estimates placing it at Rs. 3,85,84,000. The budget estimates for the financial year 1950-51 put our excise revenue at Rs 2.20 lacs and the revenue from taxes at Rs. 1.94 lacs.

The aim of Excise and Taxation Department, however, is not primarily to earn revenue for the State but to enforce a gradual prohibition of intoxicants and to realize the maximum revenue from the minimum consumption thereof so long as complete prohibition—which is our ultimate goal—is not enforced. It aims also at suppressing illicit distillation of liquor and checking the smuggling of contraband opium—both in order to safeguard State revenues.

In the sphere of taxation, the aim of this department is to impose equitable taxes on those sections of the community which can bear the same, assessing these taxes correctly and collecting the same without fear or favour,

The House is aware that prohibition in respect of liquor was introduced in the Rohtak district with effect from 2nd October 1948, and has remained in force since. Its annual loss to the State is in the neighbourhood of Rs 4 lacs per annum. We have further, in order to implement our policy of gradual prohibition, decided, with effect from the 1st April 1949, that the unlicensed sale of liquor at *bono fide* as well as proprietary clubs would be an offence and all clubs should take out licenses in form L-12-C. Further, the limit of retail sale and private possession of foreign liquor has been reduced to one reputed quart bottle instead of

an unlimited quantity— provision having been made for private possession up to a dozen bottles under a proper license. With effect from the 15th July 1949 the hours of sale of liquor at licensed hotels, restaurants bars, railway refreshment rooms, etc., have been fixed from 12 noon to 2.30 p. m. and from 7 p. m. to 11 p. m. only.

In Amritsar city, the sale of foreign liquor in hotels, restaurants bars, clubs, etc., has been totally prohibited and the estimated loss in excise revenue by this step is estimated at Rs. 50,000 per annum. This experiment we propose to extend to other towns in due course. With effect from the 1st April 1950 the five *ihatas* attached to licenses for retail vend of country liquor (and beer) in Amritsar have been abolished and the estimated loss of excise revenue involved on this account is Rs. 1,56,000 per annum.

In order to discourage the manufacturing of illicit liquor, the punishment of rigorous imprisonment in such offences has been raised from 2 to 3 years.

In accordance with the decision of the Government of India to enforce complete prohibition of oral consumption of opium, the total indent of excise opium for Punjab for the financial year 1949-50 was reduced from 426 maunds to 387 maunds and it has been decided to repeat this cut of 39 maunds every year. Our indent of excise opium for the financial year 1949-50 was reduced accordingly from 387 maunds to 348 maunds, and for the year 1950-51 it has been further reduced to 307 maunds. No excise opium will, we hope, in pursuance of this policy be available for sale at licensed shops in this State after the financial year 1957-58, and a progressive loss of Rs 8 lacs per annum, in our excise revenue rising to Rs 80 lacs per annum, after the financial year 1957-58 is the price of this Reform. But this is an international obligation and whatever its financial effects may be, since it aims at improving the health and morals of the masses of the Indian public we shall go ahead with this programme, and if possible, improve upon it.

It has also been decided that with effect from the 12th April 1949 the smoking of opium by any person should be prohibited, except in the case of habitual opium addicts of 25 years of age or above, who were required to get themselves registered before the 12th April 1949.

The Punjab Government have also decided to prohibit permanently the possession of *charas* or any admixture thereof in any quantity with effect from the 15th April 1950.

Beneficent Departments

The expenditure on Beneficent Departments incurred during 1948-49 was Rs 3,67½ lakhs and that estimated for 1949-50 (Revised) is Rs 3,90½ lakhs. For 1950-51 this expenditure has been placed at Rs 3,89½ lakhs. These figures give a percentage of 22.3 during 1948-49, 20.8 during 1949-50 and 23 during 1950-51 of the total Revenue Expenditure (including expenditure on Post-war Development Schemes) of the State.

[Chief Minister]

The total provision for all Beneficent Departments put together during the next year is less by nearly 1½ lakhs as compared with the revised estimates of 1949-50. The provision for next year under Education, however, is Rs. 1,78,60,000, which is Rs 4½ lakhs better than the revised estimates of 1949-50. (*Hear hear*). Similarly, under Medical and Public Health the provision for the next year is better by about Rs 2½ lakhs and under Industries by Rs 3 lakhs. There is a drop of almost Rs 9 lakhs under Agriculture, of which Rs 6 lakhs are explained by certain transactions in wheat seed which do not appear in the next year's Revenue Account. A cut of nearly Rs 2 lakhs has been effected in the provision for the Co-operative Department, while there is only a reduction of Rs 33,000 under Veterinary.

Education. Forty-six per cent of the total provision made for Beneficent Departments as against 45 per cent which was the ratio in the budget estimate presented this time last year, is for Education. Education is a vital need of the community and to satisfy this larger funds are undoubtedly required from year to year. Had the schemes of Post-war Development not been postponed, as a result of the Union Government's decision to discontinue grants for such schemes, it would have been possible to do more for the education of our people. Even with our limited resources, promotion of social Education is one of the important items of the Expansion Programme before the Education Department. The Government of India have assisted us by providing Rs 2 lakhs towards implementing this programme. Training Camps were held for prospective social workers and about 134 such centres are now functioning in all parts of the State both for men and women.

The ideal of Basic Education has now been accepted all over the country and the first Basic School of the State was started at Jagraon, and the teachers trained in this School are intended to be utilized for starting 25 Junior Basic Schools in the State from next year. Another Basic Training School is proposed to be started at Satrod (Hissar district)—a rural area—with a view to impart Basic Training to teachers against a rural background.

In addition to Basic Training and Social Education, College and Secondary Education are also receiving due attention. It is proposed to start a Degree College at Hissar and to extend the teaching of science in this college as soon as facilities are available. The grants for existing colleges are also being increased to provide additional resources to enable them to meet their urgent needs in respect of furniture, equipment, science apparatuses, library, etc. etc. Non-Government colleges are also being assisted by way of grants in order to enable them to continue to function efficiently.

A new Government High School is being opened at Dalhousie, and educational institutions in the areas of Loharu, Pataudi and Dujana—the three merged States—are being taken over.

A Provincial Advisory Education Board has also been set up with a view to devise curricula for the primary and middle schools to suit our new requirements. This Board is functioning at great speed, and it is

expected that within one year from now, books will be made available on the revised curricula which may be decided upon on the recommendation of this Board.

The physical side of education continues to receive the same attention as before and the courses at Taradevi will run during the next year also. Along with Physical Education the Military Training of students in schools and colleges is being continued. This year nine Senior Division Officers and 120 Junior Division Officers have been trained at various Regimental Training Centres, which will go a long way to meet the increased requirements of training by National Cadet Corps. Hon'ble Members will be pleased to learn that ours is one of the few States in the country which took a lead in raising a Girls' Division under the National Cadet Corps Scheme, and in having an Artillery Section of the National Cadet Corps at the Khalsa College, Amritsar. (*Hear, hear*).

Our University is struggling to be on its feet again. We are making an additional special grant of Rs 80,000 during the coming year to the University with the object of enabling it to organize its Honours and Post-graduate teaching—specially the Scientific side thereof—for not unless this can be raised to a higher level than at present, would our young men be able to have a fair chance of competing with success in All India Competitions.

One other activity of which very little is heard but which would be of some interest to the House, I might mention here. That concerns our efforts to raise a Central Archive for preserving all possible historical material of interest. Efforts are being made to acquire these from sundry sources—local, provincial as also from the contiguous States. The importance of these records and documents is not generally appreciated by the local population and our Historical Records Department attempts to locate and salvage these documents from whatever source that may be possible.

Health Department. As the House is aware, we amalgamated last year the Medical and Public Health Departments, and this amalgamation has resulted in closer collaboration and co-ordination of the curative and preventive measures which have been taken in this State to keep the population healthy and free from disease. It is gratifying to note that as a result of this co-operation under the able guidance of the late Col. B. S. Nat whose sad and untimely death has been an irreparable loss to Government, the State is at present, free from plague and cholera, while the incidence of small-pox has been considerably reduced,

Orders to open 18 new rural dispensaries were issued during the course of the year. Of these, 10 have already been established, and the other 8 should start functioning very soon. In addition it is proposed to establish 18 subsidized dispensaries, some of which will be under the charge of subsidized medical practitioners and others in charge of Vaid and Hakims. With the addition of these 36 dispensaries there would be one dispensary in the State for a mean of 30,000 population and 100

[Chief Minister]

square miles area. In order to bring medical aid within easy reach of villagers, Medical Officers-in charge of 159 civil and rural dispensaries are expected to tour in key villages towards north, south, east and west of dispensaries on four days in a week. Some of the patients are treated in the key villages and others are advised to come to the dispensary for treatment.

In the urban areas the hospitals at Jullundur and Karnal were modernized during the course of the year, and steps are being taken to modernize the Tahsil Headquarters Hospitals at Batala (Gurdaspur district) and Rewari (Gurgaon district). Three new hospitals were provincialized during the course of the year (Civil Hospital, Hissar; R. B. Sir Gujjarmal Kesradevi Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Amritsar; and the Women's Section of the Civil Hospital, Kalka).

Medical Education is being attended to effectively at the Glancy Medical College, Amritsar, where a Research department has also been organized and a new Pathology Block added.

This hospital is to-day fully equipped and the improvements in it have been so marked that the Medical Council of India have now recognized it as up-to-standard for the teaching of M.B., B.S. classes. It rivals to-day the Mayo Hospital which we had left behind in Lahore.

Hon'ble Members will notice from the volume of New Expenditure that, besides continuing the existing activities of the Health Department, we propose to post specialists in X-ray, Anaesthesia, Laboratory and Blood Transfusion services in District Headquarters Hospitals. We have also provided an additional sum of Rs 1 lakh for supplementing the supplies of medicines and drugs in District Hospitals other than those provincialized, and last, though not least, Grants-in-aid to the extent of Rs 50,000 are proposed for missionary societies for equipping and improving the missionary hospitals, etc.

Industries Department. The industrial problems created by the partition of the country, by the shrinkage of banking facilities, and the general shyness of the capital and that under the general shadow of overall economic difficulties were great indeed. For the successful tackling of these problems, a Government's Industries Department can do but little. The activities of the Industries Department were confined chiefly to the starting on a large scale short-term courses in industrial vocation and during the year 1948-49, 4,500 displaced persons were trained and another batch of 4,300 will have completed their training by the end of this month. Training has been imparted at 36 Training Centres and in 23 different crafts. This Department has also been able to put on the ground the Central Crafts Institute, Central Pottery Agency, Surgical Instruments Development Centre, Cottage Industries Museum and Emporium, Dyeing and Calico Printing Institute and the Industrial Research Laboratory, all of which have made satisfactory progress. We hope to start in the coming year a School of Arts as also to resuscitate, if possible, the Victoria Diamond Technical Institute.

The latest problem which is being handled by the Industries Department relate to the running of work-centres with the object of permanently rehabilitating the urban displaced population which had formed the residua of our Refugee Camps. Industrial production centres are being established wherein the buildings, equipment and raw material would be supplied by Government but which we eventually hope will be taken over on a Co-operative basis by the very colony of industrial workers receiving training in these work-centres.

Special efforts are also being made by the Industries Department to encourage cotton and wool spinning and almost 12½ lakh yards of cloth have been woven in the centres run by this Department. The Sports Goods Industry is also being revived and has made in fact satisfactory progress, for at present goods worth about Rs 4 lakhs are being produced per mensem at Jullundur. A serious drawback to a complete recovery of this industry is the shortage of willow and mulberry, both of which are now being planted on an experimental measure in the Kulu Valley. Jullundur, I hope, in the near future will become our new Sialkot, as far as Sports industry is concerned.

Co-operative Department. The Co-operative movement in this State suffered a serious setback by the partition of the Punjab, since the assets of our Co-operative institutions to the tune of over Rs 3 crores were locked up in Pakistan. Out of these assets, after a great deal of patient and tortuous negotiations, we have been recently successful in obtaining a release of securities of the value of Rs 1,04 lakhs. Another Rs 41 lakhs worth of securities were also promised by West Punjab, but the implementation of that agreement is still awaited.

In spite of this great handicap, the Co-operative movement in this State has survived. During the ten months ending January, 1950, of the current financial year no less than 824 new societies embracing a membership of 21,440 were registered and organized. These societies were of various types, such as Multi-purpose Societies, Co-operative Stores, and Co-Reclamation and Land Conservation Societies. On the whole, in the 70 Central Banking Institutions spread throughout the length and breadth of the State, deposits increased during the course of the last year from Rs 32½ lakhs to 42 lakhs, during which period these institutions advanced 3,443 loans of the value of a little over Rs 28 lakhs while the recoveries of outstanding loans amounted to nearly Rs. 24 lakhs.

Veterinary Department. The main activities of the Veterinary Department lie in the direction of control and cure of contagious and non-contagious diseases amongst livestock; breeding operations; research in various aspects of animal industry; veterinary education; dairy development; poultry husbandry; and fisheries.

There is in the State a network of 193 veterinary hospitals, 35 permanent outlying dispensaries and about 600 ordinary Outlying dispensaries. During the year 1949-50, 17 new regular veterinary hospitals were opened.

[Chief Minister]

Our Veterinary Vaccine Institute at Dagshai which was started in October, 1948, prepared as many as 1,386,400 doses of Goat Tissue Virus Vaccine for the immunisation of cattle against Rinderpest. Of these, 55,000 doses were issued to States other than the Punjab. This Institute has already undertaken the preparation of Ranikhet (Fowl) and Anti-rabic vaccines.

Two hundred and eight approved pedigree bulls were supplied to different districts in the Province at the concessional rate of Rs 250 per bull by the Livestock Farm at Hissar. A fodder reserve of three lakhs maunds, as a safeguard against fodder famines so common in that area, has also been built up. The Department have paid special attention to make the Hissar Cattle Farm not only self-sufficient but also as it should be, a paying proposition to Government.

One notable activity of this Department is the scheme for the capture and domestication of wild animals, in which it can claim some considerable measure of success.

The Camp Veterinary College which was started at Hissar in the portion of the local Government High School building early in 1948 has now been fully equipped, and out of the 86 displaced students who joined the college, 26 have so far secured the B.V. Sc. Degree, all of whom have been absorbed and employed as Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.

The work of development of dairy, poultry and fisheries (the last two were only recently transferred to the Veterinary Department from the Agricultural Department) are in their early stages, and paucity of funds stands in the way of these being up in right earnest.

Agriculture Department. The importance of Agriculture Department in an agricultural country like India cannot be over emphasized, and the role that it plays in the life of the nation would be even more vital if we are to succeed in our attempt of making village economy self-sufficient. In addition to their normal work the chief brunt of the Grow-More-Food Campaign also falls on the Agriculture Department, who, I am glad to say, are tackling this job with commendable energy.

The activities of the Agriculture Department lie in many directions. The Department started an Agricultural College in the premises of the Malwa Khalsa High School, Ludhiana. An area of 500 acres of land in village Hibbowal, at a distance of about one mile from Ludhiana, has been reserved by the Rehabilitation Department for this college. While the Agriculture Department is busy on its day-to-day work of making agriculture better and more productive they have rightly attached great importance to agricultural research on which the superstructure of agricultural development of the State would ultimately depend. Notable advance has been made in evolving improved varieties of crops, high-yielding and rust-resisting varieties of wheat, high-yielding grain varieties of barley (suitable for malting and brewing), as also high-yielding, two-rowed varieties for pearling and powder products. In their efforts to raise long staple superior cotton [the entire area under which was left

in West Punjab] the Department is attempting to rebuild the cotton economy of the Union, and *desi* cotton, wherever possible, is replaced by the American variety. In respect of rice the main problems being tackled are the replacing of red rice in Kangra by high-yielding white varieties, and fighting the menace of wild rice which causes a huge loss to cultivators.

The war against insect pests of farm crops ; vegetables and fruits is also being intensified, and investigations are also being carried out on the effects of different doses of manures on various crops. Special attention is being devoted to the supply of improved seeds, artificial fertilizers, iron and agricultural implements to the cultivators ; sinking of surface percolation wells and installation of tube-wells ; composting of town refuse and pitting of farmyard manure ; reclamation of culturable waste lands ; and establishment of Co-operative Garden Colonies. A chain of seed farms is proposed to be established in the Panjab with an area of about 13,000 acres, of which 3,500 acres is cultivated and the rest is culturable waste land, which the Department would reclaim and bring under seed farms.

One of the chief achievements of the Department lies in the direction of the Well-Sinking Scheme. Up to the middle of February 1950, taccavi loans were advanced for the sinking of nearly 2,000 wells. It has, in addition, sunk 45 tube-wells and bored 277 wells. The next year, target is to bring on commission about 1,800 percolation wells and to sink 250 tube-wells of various dimensions.

Jails Department

A jail is one of the necessary evils of modern civilized society. Social reformers in many countries have given their attention to jail reform, and we, too, had appointed a Jail Reforms Committee who have submitted a very valuable report which is now under examination of Government, and it is hoped that before long the recommendations of this Committee would be implemented. This report is probably in the hands of the hon. Members now.

Our Jails Department had to pass through a period of great stress and strain, because of the paucity of jail accommodation, in which we had to accommodate as many as twice the original number for which the jail accommodation was originally intended. The R.S.S.S. agitation as also the presence of detenus in our jails added considerably to the strain on Jail Administration which, on the whole, tried to cope with the difficulties fairly successfully.

Police Department

The statistics of law and order for the year 1949 show an increase of crime, but since this increase is almost wholly, due to cases under the Arms and Excise Acts, the increase is a cause for satisfaction rather than alarm. Serious crimes of all nature as also crime against property, such

[Chief Minister]

ss burglaries and thefts, substantially decreased during the course of the year, thus relieving the Police Department from the stress and strain under which they worked before, and enabling them to detect more cases under the Arms and Excise offences.

A residential school at Kunjpura in the Karnal district has been started where boys eventually earmarked for Police service will be admitted at an early age. The idea is to take them in hand early, and this school at Kunjpura will be something like the various Militray Schools in the Province from which officers and men of the Armed Forces are drawn. The special feature of education imparted in this school will essentially be the development of those qualities which are imperative for a successful police career.

Government are alive to the fact that the year 1950-51 is likely to be full of anxiety from the point of view of law and order. The present economic situation is bound to be exploited by political agitators whose activities are likely also to gain momentum with the approach of general elections.

Labour Administration

A separate Labour Department was set up in the Punjab in July 1949, and the necessary staff of Labour Officers and Inspectors, under a Labour Commissioner, was engaged during the course of the year. Preliminary training to the staff so selected was given by the Commissioner regarding the provisions of the Labour Laws which had to be enforced, as also regarding the approach to the various trade disputes and methods of conciliation and other general matters regarding labour welfare, etc.

It is intended, during the coming year, to proceed with the fixation of minimum wages in respect of all employments specified in the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act; to implement fully the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act; and to set up and develop Labour Welfare Centres at important industrial places in the State with a view to better the employer-employee relationship for the common good of both.

Eight disputes were referred to the Labour Commissioner during the course of the year, and I am glad to say that all of these were amicably settled.

Land Revenue Department

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, for some time past there have been signs in our State of a growing tension between landlords and tenants, which is partly attributable to agrarian legislation undertaken by other States in India, and partly to the subversive propaganda by undesirable elements. We realise that there is need for tenancy reform, but this subject is indeed one in which decisions can only be taken after very full and mature deliberations. Government have for this purpose set up the Land Reforms Committee which is required to submit interim proposals.

with a view to grant immediate relief to tenants-at-will, pending their final recommendations which, by the very nature of this difficult problem, will take some time before taking final shape.

The work of Land Settlement is generally in arrears in our State, and only Settlement operations in hand are in the Kulu Sub-Division. Settlements in most of the other districts are overdue, and it is intended to take them up after the rehabilitation of displaced rural persons has been satisfactorily completed.

The recent favourable rains have eased the fodder scarcity which was felt from November 1948, onwards. The ban which was then imposed on the export of fodder, however, still continues, but the Deputy Commissioners have been asked to make recommendations to Government for the export of fodder outside the State wherever there are surplus quantities available for export.

Local Government Department

In the field of Local Self-Government two distinct and divergent tendencies have been noticed of late. It is but natural for local talent and local enthusiasm to look for greater opportunities in the field of Local Self-Government. On the other hand, Government have been urged at times to supersede inefficient municipalities. One would have thought that the tendency normally should be for a progressive policy of decentralization of authority, more particularly in the matter of social and economic well-being of the people, so as to give greater freedom and power to local bodies to serve the inhabitants of the areas where they function. Perhaps, we need a complete re-orientation of the system of Local Self-Government as at present worked in India. Most leaders of public opinion in the country are agreed that in vitalizing the system of Panchayats we would be laying the foundation of healthier system of Local Self-Government, more in keeping with our ancient genius, and in the present session of the Assembly, Government propose to put up a Panchayat Bill for the establishment of "Panchayat Raj" in the Punjab. At the same time the necessary and urgent reform called for in the existing set up of our Local Self-Government is not being lost sight of. Elections to Local Bodies will, in future, be strictly on the basis of Joint Electorates. It has also been decided that, as a rule Local Bodies will have elected Presidents or Chairmen. The system of nominations to Local Bodies will be abolished except for a few official representatives who would be debarred from voting on any matter that has to be decided by the casting of votes.

Forest Department

An area of 6,663 acres along the Sutlej River in the Ludhiana district and 4,264 acres in the Bet Areas of Gurdaspur district has been placed at the disposal of the Forest Department for raising *shisham* and other plantations. Of this 280 acres have already been planted with *shisham* and it is planned to stock the entire area with fuel wood, *shisham* and mulberry plantations in the course of the next ten years.

[Chief Minister]

The first aim is to plant *shisham* because once that has been established mulberry, which prefers overhead shade of *shisham*, will be easy to introduce.

The House is, no doubt, aware of our "Tree Planting Day" and "Tree Planting Week" observed throughout the State in August 1949, in which lakhs of trees were planted not only by the Forest Department but by District Boards, Municipal Committees and the general public. The seedlings for this "Grow More Trees" drive were supplied free of charge by the Forest Department. Another similar week was observed from the 26th of February to 4th of March 1950, for winter sowings.

Special attention is also being paid by the Forest Department to pharmaceutical gardens in the hills of Kangra and Ambala districts. Nor has rosin been neglected, the yield of which has been stepped up from 50/55 thousand maunds to about 65 thousand maunds per annum. This fetches a revenue of about Rs 12½ lakhs to the State annually. Other important activities of the Forest Department are the tackling of Chomene in the Hoshiarpur and Ambala districts, the work of soil conservation and reclamation of eroded lands. The problem of sand-drift, which is acute in the western portion of the Hissar district, is also receiving attention at the hands of this department.

Rural Development Board

In order to achieve real democracy it is felt that our rural areas, villages, or a group of villages, must be organized on a self-sufficient and self-governing basis through multi-purpose co-operative societies and grain banks which will plan their economic life on a decentralized basis reducing the need for money economy to a minimum and restricting external trade to proved surpluses. I have quoted these words almost exactly from the resolution which was passed at a Provincial Ministers' Conference held at Poona on the 31st July and 1st of August 1946.

We have in the Punjab set up a Board for this purpose, of which the heads of our Development and all Beneficent Departments are members. We have decided to open a centre at Oel (District Hoshiarpur) where all development work will be carried out by the various Departments on the lines of the suggestions made by the Congress Economic Committee. This Centre will be a training centre for workers in village industries, basic education and other beneficent works, and all the departments concerned will start their work centres and demonstration centres at this place. Our intention is that all the work that is to be done at Oel should be done on Co-operative lines, and all Development and Beneficent Departments have been instructed—while tackling this work as a part of their normal activities—to attach due importance to it. The basis of the whole scheme is to provide food, clothing and shelter for every villager and make a village, or a group of villages, self-sufficient as far as possible. It is obvious that in the long run such a scheme, if successful, will help more than anything else in raising the standard of living of our rural population.

Publicity Department

Realizing the importance of publicity, Government had appointed a Reorganization Committee to advise them on the desired set-up of their Publicity Department. This Committee consisted of Shrimati Shaano Devi, Sardar Dalip Singh Kang and Shri Virendra, and, in accordance with the report of this Committee, Government have ordered the amalgamation of the Publicity Department and the Information Bureau into one. It has also been decided to concentrate all publicity work under this amalgamated department. Acting on the advice of this Committee, Government have also ordered the confirmation of this Department.

Among the normal work of this Department may be mentioned the publishing of three monthly journals, "Our Punjab", "Pradeep" and "Veer Bhomi". Apart from these regular publications, some special pamphlets like "One Step Forward" were also published. In addition, this Department produced four films known as "Punar-jeewan", "Life in a Refugee Camp", "This is East Punjab", and "Land Reclamation". Work has been taken in hand on the production of some more films, mainly dealing with Grow More Food Campaign.

An important wing of our Publicity Department is the Economic Intelligence Organization. We have, now, in embryo a Provincial Intelligence Room attached to this Department which will aim at giving information on up-to-date lines by preparing suitable charts and maps.

Hon. Members must have read, with interest, the new pamphlet prepared by this Department which gives in a nutshell all governmental activity, of any importance, in the State.

In the districts the field work of this Department is in charge of one District Publicity Officer with a Publicity Van completely equipped with a Mobile Cinema Unit; a Loudspeaker set and a gramophone. During the last year the various District Publicity Officers arranged nearly 1,300 meetings (an average of 100 per district) in which subjects like relations between the Police and the Public, Kashmir Situation, Untouchability, Grow More Food, Use of National Flag and Anthem, Adult Education, Small Savings Schemes, Anti-Black-marketing Propaganda, Monopoly Procurement Schemes, Prohibition, Anti-corruption, Communists and Communalists, Citizenship, etc. etc were discussed. The Departmental Cinema units arranged 512 shows during this period and these, as was to be expected, proved a great draw for the rural population.

One Reading Room is being maintained in each Tahsil and the idea is to make these Reading Rooms centres of information in rural areas, and before long, it is hoped that these will become a nucleus of Circulating Libraries for our rural population. About 20,000 books have been taken over from the Custodian of Evacuee Property, which will be made available to these libraries.

The Information Bureau issued during the last year 1,320 press communiques, press notes and news items with their Urdu, Hindi and

[Chief Minister]

Gurmukhi, translations. In addition, the Bureau contributed over sixty special articles to various periodicals both inside and outside the state.

Economic and Statistical Organization

This Organization came into being only some months back. Its main aim is to collect and arrange in a readily assimilable form, detailed data in respect of all important subjects of economic importance to the State, e.g., Trends in industrial production and commercial activity, Inter, Provincial trade, Index Numbers, etc. etc., on the basis of which alone could sound policy decisions be reached.

Anti-Corruption Committee

A separate note on the Government's campaign against corruption has been circulated to the hon. Members. That note gives detailed information on the work done by the Anti-Corruption Committee, and I have no doubt that the hon. Members who have gone through that note will have noticed that the Committee has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily during the last year. Our aim is to continue this work with vigour and despatch so as to root out corruption altogether from our Administration.

Elections Department

Our Elections Department has a huge task before it. Their work involves registering nearly 60 lakhs of voters in this State, several lakhs of whom are displaced persons. The work of preparation of electoral rolls, however, is proceeding apace and we hope to be ready for the next elections by the end of 1950 or early 1951.

But before I close this review of governmental activity, I would be failing in my duty, if I did not pay here a tribute to the hard work and willing co-operation of all Government servants (from the highest to the lowest) who made all that we have been able to accomplish, possible. Loyal by tradition, disciplined by training, they often have to bear criticism in silence and it is only right, therefore, that they should get their full measure of appreciation before this House. (*Hear hear*)

1950-51

And now, I think I will not keep the Hon'ble Members waiting any longer for the Budget Estimates of 1950-51. Our Revenue Receipts for the next year are estimated at Rs 16.18 crores and our Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 16.14 crores, indicating a surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs. (*Hear, hear*) This satisfactory result has been possible both by cutting down our expenditure and also by raising additional revenue.

So far as the raising of additional revenue is concerned we have tightened up all known loopholes in the existing tax structure and have also increased the rate of Sales Tax. In addition, the *abiana* rates have been raised by 50 per cent. The decision to increase the Sales Tax was taken

last year, and its full effect will be during 1950-51. The decision to raise the water rates by 50 per cent was taken by Government some time in the middle of 1949. The three proposals affecting rural taxation before Government then were, (i) the levy of income-tax on agricultural incomes, (ii) the enhancement of land revenue, and (iii) an increase in water rates by 100 per cent. On the first of these proposals we had, in fact, a mandate from the Union Government, but after a very full and detailed scrutiny of all these proposals, Government only decided to raise the water rates by 50 per cent and dropped the other two proposals.

I am aware, Sir, of the criticism to which this increase in water rates has, of late, been subjected. Our water rates have been raised by 50 per cent—the U. P. by 40 per cent but, the U. P.'s rates prior to this increase were higher than ours. Though Government are convinced that this increase in water rates is a fair and equitable taxation, they have decided to set up a Resources and Retrenchment Committee of the House to go into the merits of the whole case and to suggest—if they come to the conclusion that the incidence of this taxation is unfair—other sources of revenue or reduction in expenditure so that the budget remains balanced. For the present we propose no other new taxes. (*Hear, hear*)

I can assure the Hon'ble Members that, on our part we have taken pains in scrutinizing the departmental estimates, and the axe has been applied wherever it was possible to do so without lowering the administrative efficiency of a department.

And while I am conscious that we could have done far more for our various departments—particularly the Beneficent ones—while I wish that we had more money that we could spend in the service of our displaced population; while I wish that we could give to the Punjab a network of roads and canals; and while I am conscious, therefore of the many wants that still remain unfulfilled and many services that could well have been rendered in addition to what we are doing at present, I cannot but stress the words of political sagacity (unfortunately forgotten at times), which stipulate that the provision of social services and amenities must follow and cannot precede the financial solvency of a State. There is room for quiet confidence that our finances are now in a satisfactory way. We thought at one time that we would be a deficit province and this deficit we did not expect to cover until the benefits of the Bhakra and Nangal were available to the Punjab. The steady progress in our finances during the last two and a half years has been a most heartening one, to me personally, not only in my capacity as the Minister in-charge of the Finance portfolio, but as the Chief Minister of this Province.

Our finances have been ably and well managed and for that much Government's thanks are due to S. Kartar Singh Malhotra, our Finance Secretary (*Hear, hear*). He has worked hard—very hard indeed—to achieve financial stability for our State. His task has been arduous, such a seldom falls to the lot of a Finance Secretary, and I am glad to say that he has discharged his duties with efficiency and impartiality which could not have been improved upon. Able, alert, dignified, upright and outspoken, Mr. Malhotra has been a pillar of strength to the Administration. (*Hear, hear*)

[Chief Minister]

My thanks are also due to Shri Gopal Das who came to us last year with a reputation for efficiency and industry. He has more than justified our expectations, and his vigilance over the P. W. D. finances has been of immense help. Shri Badri Nath Chopra, the other Under-Secretary, has continued to maintain the high standard of efficiency attained by him. The two Assistant Secretaries, Shri Pyara Lal Khanna and Pandit Amar Chand; both of whom joined the Finance Department during the course of the year, have also done very useful work, and so have in fact the rank and file of the Finance Department to all of whom I convey Government's thanks.

Our thanks are also due to Shri R. C. Khanna, Accountant General, Punjab, and his office for the invaluable assistance rendered by them.

And now, Sir, I close. That we have accomplished something under difficult conditions and in trying times will be conceded by those who review our work in retrospect. Our efforts have been great, but our problems greater, and our shortcomings and handicaps, by no means, few. We strive for the service of the common man and for the prosperity of the Punjab. Towards the fulfilment of those ambitions each one of us has to make his or her contribution. If we would all resolve to work a little harder and thereby create a little more wealth (visible or invisible); if we would learn to live disciplined lives and to spend wisely; if we would attempt to save as much as we can out of our income for the good of the country as a whole—we could have contributed our bit to the solution of these problems!

Now, Sir, I beg to present the Budget for the years 1950-51.

JAI HIND

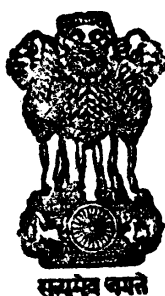
The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th March, 1950.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

TUESDAY, 14th MARCH 1950.

Vol. 1—No. 7

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 14th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, today the general discussion on the Budget has to take place. On a number of occasions in the past the question hour had been dispensed with on the days of general discussion. I, therefore, request that there be no questions to-day and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: It would be better if that is done because I have received a note from the hon. Chief Minister that he will not be able to reply to questions today as he is feeling indisposed. If the House agrees, the question hour can be dispensed with.

Minister for Labour: Government has no objection.

Mr. Speaker: It is not the question of Government having any objection. This can only be done if the House has no objection. May I know if it is the pleasure of the House that the question hour be dispensed with today and tomorrow?

Honourable Members: Yes

Question hour was accordingly dispensed with.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

PRESENTATION.

Minister for Labour: (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad): I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates, 1949-50 (Second instalment). The demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

PRIVILEGE MOTION.

MISREPORTING BY NEWSPAPERS.

Metha Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural): Sir, I move—

This Assembly regrets to note the false and perverted reporting in the Daily 'Milap' dated the 11th March, 1950 with regard to the proceedings of this Assembly on the 9th March, 1950. As there has been a breach of privilege, this Assembly requests the hon. Speaker to take necessary steps so as to prevent a repetition of such a breach of privilege in future.

The report begins with the words '*Punjab Assembly men garma garma. Speaker Sahib ne Mehta Ranbir Singh ko House se nikal jane ka hukam de dia.*'

While moving my privilege motion, I refer you to page 81 of May's Parliamentary Practice where it has been clearly laid down that if there is a breach of privilege, the Speaker may take action to safeguard the privileges of the Members of the House. I am sure, Sir, that you as the rightful custodian of the rights and privileges of this hon. House will take suitable and proper action against the newspapers that have published wrong reports. You were pleased to remark yesterday that you will examine whether the misreporting in the papers was intentional or not. My submission is that the headlines which are published in the newspapers are clear enough to show that these papers have displayed indiscretion in publishing the reports of the proceedings of this Assembly. I strongly protest against these headlines and as there has been a clear breach of privilege of this House, I request you to take such action as you may deem proper to avoid this thing being repeated. You will appreciate, Sir, that such reports are likely to be misconstrued by the public outside who might attach exaggerated importance to these wrong and perverted reports. You were pleased to remark yesterday that such matters would ordinarily be decided by the Committee of Privileges when one such Committee is constituted. I seek your protection and request that till such time as the Committee is formed, you will take necessary steps to ensure that newspapers refrain from publishing such false reports.

Mr. Speaker : I am glad to see that the hon. Members are keen to protect their rights and privileges. They also want that whenever there is a breach of privilege, some action should be taken. So far as this incident is concerned, I have gone through practically all the newspapers and in particular have seen the report in the newspaper mentioned by the hon. Member. Honourable Members will appreciate that the newspaper Reporters have to take down the proceedings of the House as a whole and it often happens as has been the case that has now been brought to the notice of the House that those reports are not cent. per cent. correct. There occurs sometimes omission of important facts and at others misreporting to a certain extent. In this particular case, if hon. Members were to see the report, they will find that there has been misrepresentation to some extent but that is not at all intentional. The hon. Member has drawn my attention to May's Parliamentary Practice. On page 117, hon. Members will find—

So long as the debates are correctly and faithfully reported, the orders which prohibit their publication are not enforced; but when they are reported *mala fide*, the publishers of newspapers are liable to punishment.

The following are instances of misconduct in connection with the publication of debates which has been treated as a breach of privilege;

Publishing a false account of proceedings of the House of Lords.

In this particular case it cannot be said that false account has been published. Then :

Publishing scandalous misrepresentation of what had passed in either House or what had been said in the debate.

Publishing gross or wilful misrepresentations of particular Members' speeches.

And so on. After going through the proceedings as published in the 'Milap' and some other papers also I am of the opinion that the report was neither a scandalous misrepresentation of what had passed in the House nor a gross or wilful misrepresentation of any Members' speech. Unfortunately the circumstances that day were such that I also was forced to use certain words and expressions which to some extent were not quite proper. Reports in some of the newspapers lead to the conclusion that it was I who asked the hon. Member to 'get out' of the Assembly Chamber although the facts were quite different as the hon. Member himself withdrew from

[Mr. Speaker :]

the Chamber. In spite of all that I do not think that the report in any way tantamounts to a breach of privilege

However, there can be cases where breach of privilege might take place. What remedy have we got? So far, privileges or their breach have not been defined which can only be done by an Act of the Legislature. Unless that is done and powers are taken by law to punish those who are guilty of breach of privilege or to summon any person before a Committee appointed for the purpose, we are not in a position to take any effective steps.

In regard to the particular case that is now before the House, my own view is that since no *prima facie* case has been made out against the newspapers and since there has been no breach of any privilege it would be better to drop the matter.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, you as the Speaker of this Assembly are the rightful custodian of the rights and privileges of this hon. House. I think something should be done to deal with the particular incident that has been brought to the notice of this House. If the fact of misreporting had been brought to the notice of the pressman concerned, I am sure he would not have hesitated to publish some sort of correction in the paper. The hon. Member concerned would, I think, have been more than satisfied if that were done. But since that has not been done, I would request you, Sir, to take it upon yourself to dispose of this matter as best as you like. If you consider it right and necessary, you might send for the pressman concerned and tell him to make amends by issuing some sort of contradiction in the paper or adopting any other course which you might consider just and proper and ask him to be more careful in future.

Mr. Speaker :—I am thankful for the suggestion of the hon. Member and shall do whatever I can in regard to this matter.

Honourable Members, I take this opportunity of bringing one important fact to the notice of the House. On a number of occasions I find that when Members give notices of questions and resolutions, those very questions and resolutions appear in the press before they are admitted. At times I find that when certain questions and resolutions are submitted to me for being admitted, those very questions and resolutions are published in the papers. That is a practice which I would very much like to discourage. After all there are certain duties and obligations which rest upon the accredited

representatives of the people of the State. I hope that the hon. Members will not rush to the press for publishing questions and resolutions before they are admitted.

One request I have to make to press representatives also. I want co-operation from them and would expect that nothing which might be a reflection upon this hon. House as a whole or upon any individual member in the discharge of his duties should find a place in the papers. I would request them not to do anything which might in any way offend against the rules of this House or which might be considered as a breach of the privileges of the Assembly.

As has been suggested by Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, I bring to the notice of the Press representatives what has been said on the floor of the House regarding the incident which took place on the 9th March. I would also request them to be careful in future so that such incidents are not misrepresented in the Press.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BUDGET AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, you are one of the oldest Members of this Assembly and you are aware that there was a very healthy convention that when the Budget was presented to this House by the Finance Minister, we were given some time to study it before it was discussed generally. This time, however, I find that no time has been given to us to look into this Budget and I feel that it will not be possible for us to do full justice to the contribution that we are going to make during the course of the debate. I fail to understand the reason that has led the Leader of the House to make a departure from that healthy convention and I think the House has a right to know the reason from him.

Mr. Speaker : When this programme was being drawn up, I also noticed this point and wished that some time should be given to the hon. Members to look into the Budget before the general discussion started. I myself feel that as in the case of Supplementary Estimates, two or three days should intervene between the presentation of the Budget and its general discussion. Honourable Members are, I think, aware that the House has to frame its own rules and can suggest any alterations in the existing rules and when that is being done, this question can also be taken up. In Parliament the case is quite different as there, days are allotted by the

[Mr. Speaker:]

Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House but here allotment of time is made by His Excellency the Governor. As a matter of fact, I myself could make the necessary alteration in the Rules but I did not think it proper

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: You would have vindicated the rights of the House, had you done it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: When are the rules to be amended?

Mr. Speaker: When the Estimates Committee is appointed, it would be given powers to suggest and make the necessary alterations after going through the rules.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: The rules are already there.

Mr. Speaker: They can be amended by the House.

Srdar Bachan Singh: This time General Administration and some other important demands are not to be discussed. May I ask whether discussion will be confined only to those demands which have been chosen by the Chief Minister or discussion can also take place on other demands?

Mr. Speaker: During the Unionist regime the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition after mutual discussion used to decide as to which of the Demands were to be discussed and that practice was followed for a number of years. This time, however, I have received a notice from the office that the Leader of the House has intimated that such and such Demands would be taken up for discussion and so far there has been no formal opposition to this. Anyway, the Government has taken up 5 Demands for discussion and there are two days for the general discussion. Although on general discussion only the general principle of the Budget can be discussed yet I will not insist on that rule strictly and will allow hon. Members to discuss general administration or any other particular demand that they might like to discuss.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: As you have rightly said, Sir, that the Leader of the House himself has decided as to which of the Demands are going to be taken up and there has been no formal opposition, may I know whether, if we suggest some other demands to be taken up, our suggestion will be given due weight?

Mr. Speaker :—This question can be raised when we begin with the demands for Grants. Let the House now proceed with the general discussion of the Budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I have to perform a very important though apparently an unpleasant task. In a democratic Government, to the creation of which the hon. Chief Minister referred during the course of his speech, it is essential that all the shortcomings and defects in the Government should be brought to its notice. As you know, Sir, the Chief Minister performed the duties of the Leader of the Opposition for a long time. Though you and the Leader of the House have fled from this field, yet I have still to perform that task, the most important one

Minister for Local self Government and Labour : They are occupying their proper places.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Opposition is sometimes offered with a view to weaken and defeat the existing Government, so that another party may take its place and prove its fitness to serve the country in a better way. Those days are gone and that cannot be the object of the Opposition now. Sometimes the object of offering opposition is to reveal the inner working and weakness of the group in power so that there might be improvement in the change of Ministry from within, but at this time even that is not my intention. I intend to discuss this Budget with a view to show it to the Government and particularly to the Members of this House, that the situation is not so bright as it has been depicted in the one-sided picture presented to them. If all the real or imaginary good features of a situation are collected together and presented to the public, it is likely to create a false impression on their minds. I wish to place the real picture before the House, so that any such false impression may disappear. Some hon. Members might think that as it is a popular Government and they have their own representatives in it, it would not be essential to say certain things. It is very likely that on account of those considerations, they might not say things which they would have otherwise said. In this connection I am reminded of a couplet—

ਜੋ ਚੁਪ ਰਹੇ ਹੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਖੰਜਰ ਲਹੂ ਪੁਕਾਰੇ ਗਾ ਆਸਤੀਂ ਕਾ
ਜੋ ਚੁਪ ਰਹੇ ਹੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਖੰਜਰ ਲਹੂ ਪੁਕਾਰੇਗਾ ਆਸਤੀਂ ਕਾ

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

The real feelings of a person are known, even if he keeps silent about them.

I offer my customary congratulations to the hon. Chief Minister on his presenting this Budget. It was reported in the Press that there was great applause on its presentation but there might be some exaggeration in these reports. On studying the Budget, one would find that the picture painted by the Government is very deceptive. The speech delivered by the hon. Chief Minister and the address delivered by His Excellency the Governor a few days back are likely to create a false impression on the minds of the public. Some hon. Members of this House might have been led to believe that our State is free from all worries, difficulties and dangers. An interesting device has been applied for creating such an impression. I wish to point out, Sir, that just as a good impression can be created by putting together all the good features in a certain thing, just the reverse would be the case if all its weak points and defects are collected and placed together.

Next I want to submit that the impression created by going through the Budget and seeing at newspapers which have acclaimed it in head lines, is deceptive. The appearance is different from reality. At this stage I am reminded of a verse of Ghalib although I am putting it a bit altered to suit the occasion. I don't think there is any poet in this House and as regards Shri Ptithvi Singh Azad, he is a poet in name only. That verse is—

इन के कहने से जा दिख जाती है फरजी सुरत ।
हम समझते हैं कि बीमार का हाल अच्छा है ॥
ਏਨ ਕੇ ਕਹਿਨੇ ਸੇ ਜੋ ਦਿਖ ਜਾਤੀ ਹੈ ਫਰਜ਼ੀ ਸੂਰਤ
ਹਮ ਸਮਝਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਕਿ ਬੀਮਾਰ ਕਾ ਹਾਲ ਅੱਛਾ ਹੈ

Similarly, from the outward appearance of the patient we are led to believe that he is better while in reality it is not so. The impression given by the Budget speech creates an illusion of excellence. As a result of this kind of falsification, the real disease remains unattended. But I may say that a disease like T. B., if not attended to in the very beginning proves fatal afterwards. Similarly if this House and this State remain under the illusion that all is right, the consequences would be most disastrous. It is, therefore, necessary that we should harbour no illusion. It is but right that we should know that we are sitting at the top of a volcano. If we ignore this hard fact, the result would be the same which history has been showing and is being demonstrated in actual practice elsewhere even to-day.

Before going into the figures of the Budget, I would like to submit that our Ministry and the hon. Ministers are very weak while the officials are arrogant and head strong. Consequently the people are getting crushed in this race of politics, in which some fall down while others get on. (Interruption).

Shri Virendra : There are others who just miss getting on.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : This is also correct. Some of us just miss riding and thus save ourselves. I am perhaps one of them, but those who have fallen down are restless like my hon. friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt who is just now interrupting me. As a result of this, the condition of the Government is precarious.

I have, already, pointed out, Sir, that the time given to us for the study of this bulky Budget is very short, *i. e.* less than 20 hours as you yourself feel. I however hope that in future such a thing would not happen. Besides I have another grievance. I have been a member of the Assembly for a pretty long time ; but I remember no occasion when the General Administration was left out of discussion. But this time it figures nowhere in the programme of discussion on the Budget agenda. I don't remember such a thing having happened at any time in the past in the days of Governments which we considered most reactionary. Instead of General Administration, small and unimportant Departments such as Food Procurement and Grow More Food Campaign have been included in the programme of discussion. If General Administration which is the root of all other Departments is not allowed to be discussed, I don't know what good it would be to discuss the Budget at all. If our Government is not prepared to listen to the criticism of its policy, I think our freedom would be worse than slavery. I hope that such a thing would be avoided in future.

Another grievance that I have is regarding the answering of questions by the hon. Ministers. They give evasive replies just as their prototypes did in the days gone by. I know, Sir, that you are not to blame, although you sometimes shield the hon. Ministers whenever there is excitement in the discussion.

Mr. Speaker : No such remarks.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It is a reflection on the Chair, Sir.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: No reflection is made. Further more, Sir, we see that the Budget shows surplus for the next year. Not only that, it seems to have worked miracles even in regard to previous years. During the year 1948-49, it was estimated to have a big deficit of Rs. 6 crores and 69 lakhs. Afterwards the Revised Budget Estimates were prepared, and the deficit was shown to be Rs 10 crores and 88 lakhs. In this way, our hon. Finance Minister at first thought that the deficit would be to the tune of Rs. 6 crores and 69 lakhs and afterwards it was shown to be Rs. 10 crores and 88 lakhs. But actually, it is now shown that there is a surplus of Rs. 1 crore and 15 lakhs. Such a strange budgetting, I must say such a surprise, has hardly been witnessed in any other Government. Who knows that the surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs shown in the estimates of the next year, might rise to a surplus of Rs. 25 crores afterwards. I admit that our hon. Chief Minister is not an astrologer, although he makes use of that science of astrology. But I am at a loss to understand such budgetting. If this state of affairs continues, the preparation of Budgets and discussion thereon would become meaningless in future. Sir, In my opinion, there appears to be no sense in it. In those days there might have been in uncertain conditions prevailing in our province which did not allow us to think and guess clearly. But even after that I find no change for the better. The budget for 1949-50 anticipated a deficit of Rs. 8,55 lakhs. The revised estimates however showed a surplus of Rs. 41 lakhs. The final accounts are yet to come. Although originally a deficit of about eight-crores and a half was anticipated, now it is said that the question of any deficit does not arise at all. Are these the estimates that our experts make? What is there for us to gloat over? Of the total saving, a sum of Rs. 3,60 lakhs is due to the change in the classification of expenditure from revenue section to capital section of account. Is this an achievement for which the Government should be applauded? A further big saving has been effected by stopping gratuitous relief to displaced persons living in general relief camps. Should we take it that the condition of the displaced persons living in such camps has improved? Far from it. Only those persons know the pangs of poverty and helplessness who experience such misfortunes. We cannot imagine the condition of those persons who are living in the camps; only they know it.

Another saving has been made by postponing some of the civil works for which provision was originally made. It is a strange saving for a Government to make. In this way we can stop all the construction of roads etc. and say here is the amount we have saved; the whole of the revenue can be saved if the Government stops all its beneficent activities. But, Sir, a good Government should never resort to such savings. It is a matter of regret that expenditure on National Volunteer Corps has been reduced by rupees twenty five lakhs. As a matter of fact the Corps was constituted to satisfy an important need of the State. Has that need been satisfied? I don't think we have been able to do so. In fact, our Government has failed in this matter and at last it has come out with a saving of rupees twenty five lakhs before the public to conceal its failure. Another saving of two crores on which our Government might take pride is really a reduction in the expenditure on Relief and Rehabilitation due to reimbursement by the Union Government.

Now I wish to let hon. Members know as to how the Revenue Receipts have been increased. Some of this increase is due to the fact that during this year remissions in land revenue have been reduced. Does it mean that the farmers in the state have become so prosperous that they do not stand in need of any such remission? I don't think their conditions have improved to that extent. On the other hand recently we have noticed that the conditions of small farmers especially tenants have deteriorated.

Another increase in the receipts is due to Sales Tax which has contributed about fifty lakhs of rupees. It is, in fact, an indirect tax which falls mainly on the poor. Had its incidence been on the rich we would not have minded. But, Sir, the burden falls on the poor and hence this source of income is quite unjustified.

Now Sir, let me analyse the budget for the year 1950-51. The surplus of four lakhs has been achieved by starving the beneficent departments and by increasing the income of the State with Sales Tax the incidence of which as I have already stated falls upon the poor and by increasing 50% abiana on the cultivator. Farmers are greatly agitated on account of the increase in water rates and in order to tone down this agitation a way out has been discovered. The matter has been referred to the Resources and retrenchment Committee which has been asked to find out whether other ways,

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can be discovered which can give the state an equal income. It is a novel procedure. Can any tax which has been imposed once be withdrawn so soon? I don't find any such instance in any other country. Of course, I know that for a Government it is quite necessary to resort to taxation. But the taxes should be equitably distributed. I am not against the idea of taxation as such. What I wish to submit is that Government should see that the taxes are equitable and they are so distributed that their burden does not fall unduly upon any one section of the population. I would not mind this surplus budget which has been made by resorting to these taxes if corresponding efficiency is obtained in the administration of affairs. But I find no such improvement. Government is quite justified in having a sum of rupees one crore provided it returns to the people even one tenth in the form of improved efficiency in administration and service to the people at large. I should improve the lot of the poor people by removing their difficulties and troubles. But what we find is that while in that direction nothing important and useful has been achieved, the burden of taxes upon the poor has increased. This is not the state of affairs on which the House can feel delighted. I am not an expert in the matter of making budgets but still I can claim to understand something about them. I must say for the benefit of those who might be misled that during the last two years and a half we have taken a loan of more than thirty one crores. Well, Sir, during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949, the Government burdened itself with loans to the tune of Rs. two crores, 10 crores and about 12 crores respectively. Not only this THEN there are temporary loans which it floated. In 1947 this type of loan stood at the figure of Rs. two crores and in 1948 at Rs. five crores. Since I do not claim myself to be an expert in economics, I ask what these temporary loans are. Does it mean that a temporary loan is not to be repaid? Or is it not like a regular loan, recovery of which can be made through attachment warrants? So the nature of the debt amounting to seven crores of rupees is not clearly understandable but it is there. Then in 1950 our Government incurred another debt. It floated a loan of Rs. three crores. Besides this, the Central Government spent Rs. 12½ crores on its account and yet the debt into which the Government went headlong, knows no bounds. Then the Government had prepared an estimate for Bhakra Dam Project amounting to Rs. 14 crores, but now that estimate has been reduced

to Rs. 6 crores and I am not aware whether this money has been made available to them or not. Sir, what I want to drive at is that after hearing the high sounding budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, the House should not run away with the impression that all is well on the financial front of the State and that the Government is quite solvent. I am of the opinion that it is merely through jugglery of figures and words that an endeavour has been made to hoodwink the people into the belief that Government is financially sound. You are perhaps aware, Sir, that such jugglery of figures was practised by the previous Governments also. They would sell national assets like the Nazul lands and swell their finances and thus in the beginning of every year they would present a surplus budget to the legislature. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal would remember that this went on for several years during the regime run by men of his ilk. But this habit did not come to an end with the ending of the previous regimes. Our Government is also treading on these very foot prints left by the previous Governments in the matter of manipulation of Budget figures. Well, Sir, I have made an attempt to show to the hon. Members as to what is the actual position of our State finances. My object in making this analysis is that my hon. Friends should not carry the impression of soundness and stability of the finances of our State. The only silver lining or the redeeming feature that I find in their proposal for the general benefit of the State, is that they are determined to see the Bhakra Dam Project through. But I am constrained to remark that I can exonerate neither this Government from the charge of remissness or gross negligence, nor the Central Government for its parsimoniousness in the grant of money towards the completion of this scheme. In this connection I may point out that through the courtesy of an hon. Minister of the previous ministry, I had the opportunity of having some insight into the work which is being executed in regard to the Bhakra Dam. I saw with my own eyes how the massive tunnels were being dug out by tearing the heart of the mountains. I think all those persons or the members of the Assembly who are interested in the early materialisation of the Bhakra Dam and who saw things for themselves, must have felt a little satisfaction outwardly but inwardly they must have been disappointed, like me, at the slow speed with which the work was being carried out. I am of the opinion that the present progress of the work does not hold out any bright expectation of its early completion. It appears that it will take some ten to fifteen years before this much needed project is completed.

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Then a mention has been made of a provision of several crores of rupees for Irrigation. Since this demand for grant has been selected for discussion of the House, I need not dilate upon it. If I get an opportunity or some other hon. Member catches the eye of the hon. Speaker on that day, then a flood of light will be thrown on the subject. But I would like to discuss those important departments which have not been included in the list of demands, which will come up for discussion during the next few days. As no opportunity will be found to discuss some I take them up now. The first thing to which I would like to invite the attention of the House is this. Let me begin with a quotation from the address of His Excellency the Governor, which he delivered to this Assembly the other day. If necessary I would also quote from the budget speech of the hon. Chief Minister to show the true state of affairs obtaining in the Punjab and also to remove any misunderstanding that may have been caused to the hon. Members by the so called bright picture presented by him. During the course of his address, His Excellency remarked as follows:—

It is an axiom of administration that the permanent services are the instrument of Government for executing its policies, and to the extent that public servants of all grades are not efficient, disciplined, impartial, honest, contented and progressive, to that extent the implementation of policies will be defective.

In other words the principle underlying the task of running administration is that permanent services are the chief means of executing the policies of the Government, and that the more efficient disciplined and honest these services are, the more easy will it be to carry out the policies of the Government. In other words the implementation of Government policies is directly proportional to the efficiency of the permanent services. If there is no lacuna in the services, it will be reflected in the efficient execution of Government policies. So unless the services inculcate the qualities enumerated by His Excellency the policies of the Government can never be carried out flawlessly. I very much appreciate the words of His Excellency because these great words come from a great man. But continuing he remarked:—

My Government therefore regards the progressive improvement of the administrative machinery of the State as one of its important tasks, and I would like here to give it as my personal opinion based on knowledge that our administration is improving steadily.

His Excellency is of the opinion that steady improvement is taking place in the administration. But I do not see what speed is being maintained for making improvement in it. Again this is news to me that progressive improvement of administrative machinery is considered to be one of its important tasks. I submit that there is nothing new in it. I feel it is the bounden duty of every Government to keep the administrative machinery in order and ever efficient. Then I have serious apprehensions about the administration being steadily improved. I wonder if the present administration will ever be improved. In this connection I am reminded of a Persian couplet which aptly applies to the occasion.

ईं ह्याल अस्तो मुहाल अस्तो जनु । (Applause).
 ਦੀਂ ਖਿਯਾਲ ਅਸਤੋ ਮੁਹਾਲ ਅਸਤੋ ਜਨੁ ।

I may point out that there is little foundation in the statement that administration is steadily improving. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that it is an administration which is rotten to the core (Applause.) As a matter of fact I do admit that the Governor like the King can really do no wrong. It seems that he has been kept in the dark 3 p.m. so far as the progressive improvement of the administrative machinery of our State is concerned, and I have no hesitation in saying that our Ministry is entirely responsible for not placing the true picture of our administrative machinery before him. In fact it is an open secret that the Governor cannot be held directly responsible for the existing state of affairs in our State where it is difficult, rather impossible, to find even the shadows of efficiency, discipline, impartiality and honesty. If public servants were efficient, disciplined, impartial and honest, I am sure conditions in our State would have been quite different and far, far better than those which we have at present in our State. It is not therefore right to say that steady progress has been made in the general efficiency of the services.

Further His Excellency the Governor has in the course of his Address pointed out,

On behalf of my Government, I take the opportunity of paying them a tribute for their unflinching loyalty and steadfast devotion.

It is an erroneous conception entertained by His Excellency the Governor that the highly placed Officials of the Government are discharging their duties efficiently. In my opinion whatever in

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efficiency we find in the services is all due to their fault. Under the circumstances there seems to be no justification on the part of His Excellency the Governor to pay such glowing tributes to the high officials. Further His Excellency has pointed out:—

Corruption is still prevalent though it is the considered opinion of my Government that it has been brought under a great measure of control.

This is the considered opinion of my hon. Friends occupying the Treasury Benches. This is the settled view of those four hon. Ministers who are at present in their seats and the two other colleagues who are not present in their seats. It is their settled view that corruption in our State has been brought under a great measure of control. I do not hold His Excellency the Governor responsible for what he has said and done. Our Mantri Mandal (Cabinet) has put these words regarding corruption into his mouth and he has expressed these very words as best as he could. He has done what he has been asked to do and has thus acted according to the instructions of our *Mantri Mandal*. Perhaps by using the words "great measure" it is meant that more than 70% of corruption has been brought under control. I have already congratulated the Hon. Chief Minister on presenting the Budget. Although I do not find anything worth appreciation in it, still I take the opportunity of congratulating him once again as according to the traditions one has to observe such formalities. But I cannot do without saying that these things which I have already quoted from the Address of His Excellency are far remote from reality. Further it has been mentioned in his Address:—

It is not the Government alone which can make the services fully perfect.

In my opinion His Excellency the Governor is not right in saying this that Government alone cannot make the services effective. These are nothing but old conservative ideas. Such things have happened in the past and during those old days when there was only one-man rule and when one man ruled as he pleased. But now are the days of democracy. Now it is the people who rule. Now we have Government of the people; by the people and for the people. Now the sovereignty of the State does not rest with one man, but it rests with the people. The public is very much disgusted with the attitude of the Government in general and the services in particular, and wherever we go we are asked by the people whether this was the

kind of 'Lok Raj' for the establishment of which they strived and struggled all through their lives. While accepting and recognizing the principle of Democracy it has been further mentioned in the Address:—

.....the public in general and you, their representatives
can do a great deal to assist Government in this sphere.

There is no doubt about it that public and their representatives can do a great deal to assist the Government not only in putting an end to corruption but also in all the spheres of Governmental activities. But what we have to see is whether public and their representatives have ever been asked to assist the Government. No such efforts have ever been made to consult them and the pity of it is that they are kept at a long distance. Under the circumstances there seems to be no justification in saying this that the public and the representatives can do a great deal to assist the Government. Again it is mentioned in the Address:—

My Government is confident that this help which can be rendered
in various ways will be forthcoming without stint.

I am really surprised as to how this help will be forthcoming when the public and the real representatives are kept at a long distance and when their presence is no longer tolerated by them. I would like to request the hon. Ministers not to deceive themselves by putting such words in the mouth of His Excellency the Governor. It will not be out of place to mention here that people outside are already disgruntled and discontented with the Government and they hate it like anything. They despise the very name of the Government and the very party which is at its back. I have never experienced in my life people hating the Government so much. I cannot say if under such conditions Government would receive any assistance or co-operation from the people and their representatives. I cannot also say if under these conditions our Government would be successful in running the administration of our State. Here I cannot do without quoting a few lines from the Budget Speech of the hon. the Chief Minister. It is given there:—

Our aim is to continue this work with vigour and despatch so
as to root out corruption altogether from our administration.

Here the hon. Chief Minister wants to assure us that he and his colleagues would root-out corruption altogether from our

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city only a few cases out of a huge pile. This does not mean that corruption is confined to my district alone, though I can give State. Here I am reminded of a story. Once some musicians were carrying a bier of music and they passed through the palace of Aurangzeb. They did this with some purpose. It was their intention that by doing so, they would be able to make their Emperor, who being deadly against music himself had prohibited singing of any music in every nook and corner of his Empire, realize that his policy had resulted in depriving them of their source of livelihood. While passing through the Palace, they were stopped by Aurangzeb who was peeping through a window. He enquired from them as to where they were going. He was informed by them that they were carrying the bier of music. On hearing this, he asked them to dig deep into the earth and place the bier in such a way that it may not raise its ugly head again from its last slumber. He laid much stress upon this point that it should be buried so deep that there may be no possibilities for its resurrection. In the same way our Chief Minister has determined to root out corruption in our State. Here I wish to bring this point home to the hon. members of *Mantri Mandal* in general and the hon. Chief minister in particular (CHAUDHRI SURAJ MAL: It is *Bakri Mandal*) I did not say so. I said *Mantri Mandal*. However, I wish to bring this point home to them that they may or may not succeed in rooting out corruption in our State, but they have already rooted out the very principles of congress and our cherished desires to see our province happy and prosperous.

Then the hon. Chief Minister stated that he would be failing in his duty if he did not pay a tribute to the hard work and willing co-operation of all Government servants, high and low, who made it possible for the Government to achieve so much by their unflinching loyalty and power to bear all kinds of criticism in silence and with good grace. Sir, with double the force, nay even with a force greater than that, I would praise 10 per cent. of the services, but 10 per cent only and would congratulate them too. As to the remaining 90 per cent. of them, I beg to differ from the hon. Chief Minister's opinion. Sir, our difficulty is that if we just refer to the cases of corruption without going into details, we are told that it is no use making vague allegations, but if on the other hand we give full details, we are criticized for narrating long stories. So in order to escape this dilemma-creating situation, I have decided to

cite only a few cases out of a huge pile. This does not mean that corruption is confined to my district alone though I can give only those instances about which I have personal knowledge. But these instances will clearly act as an eye-opener and will be only a few of their kind. These will, however, give the House an idea of the magnitude of the problem. So far as I think, every member of the House must be having knowledge of such cases occurring in his 'ilaqa' and if everyone starts narrating them, I think the session will have to be extended to 31st May instead of 31st March and even then it is doubtful if this narration would come to an end, and, Sir, your patience too would be exhausted. Now I don't want to take much time of the House.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member has already taken 45 minutes.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : But his speech is very interesting, Sir.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, a large number of members want to participate in the debate. I therefore request that a time limit should be fixed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, since your association with this Legislature is several years' old, you must be well aware, though those who are new comers may not be knowing it, that the member who initiates the Budget discussion is given more time to speak than others. If I have risen to speak criticising the Government, it is but natural to expect that I shall say something in detail. If the House thinks I have taken more time than I should have, I will resume my seat. But I must say that it is a well-established convention in the Parliaments of other democratic countries to allow the member speaking after the Budget speech, at least as much as is taken in reading it, if not more. And then we have had hardly twenty-four hours to study it.

Sir, it is no doubt true that in democratic countries like Britain, services are a permanent element of the Government. Whether the Labour party comes into power or the Conservatives, the services remain unaffected and continue carrying out the policy of the Government of the day. Such political changes as are brought about by elections do not have any effect on them. But, Sir, it is also equally true that if the countries which freed themselves from the foreign yoke had even after attaining independence, continued with the old services, they would not have been able to further the cause of revolution and reform and march forward

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on the road of progress. Unfortunately, we forgot this lesson. When our country attained independence, instead of overhauling the services, we thought we need not change their personnel, since after all, the existing men were our own brethren, although they had been the instruments of the British. But we have to admit it regretfully that our hopes have been belied. These brethren have not come up to our expectations. Our Government, this cabinet, is surely labouring under a grave misunderstanding, if it thinks that these people are discharging their duties in a manner worthy of the Civil Servants of a free country.

Sir, although I fully understand the position assigned to the Governor under the Constitution and am also aware of the fact that being the constitutional head of the State, he is above all criticism, yet I feel constrained to say that during His Excellency's tours, certain things happen which as a matter of fact ought not to happen, in the present times. In their tours, the officials arrange things in such a manner as tends to revive old, reactionary practices against which we protested all our lives during the British regime and for the eradication of which we had made our life mission. Sir, as these practices which are attempted to be revived, are absolutely out of tune with the time, I would request the hon. Chief Minister to give correct advice to the Governor about these matters, so that the local officials may not be in a position to manoeuvre things after their own fashion, and His Excellency's tours may in future be free from such practices and formalities as smack of reactionarism.

Now I would like to refer to a few incidents pertaining to Haryana District and after that I shall resume my seat. Sometime back a very representative gathering of the congress workers of Rohtak District workers, representing 700 villages, and a few leading Congressmen of Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal Districts, put their grievances and demands in the form of an address presented to the hon. Chief Minister, but I have to admit with regret that no action has so far been taken to redress the grievances. Such an instance of indifference to the express wishes of the people, would not have always occurred even in the day of the country's slavery. It is all the more regrettable that this indifference is now being shown by the persons who claim to be holding the reins of a people's Government.

Now I want to show how under the regime of this Government honest and conscientious persons are being harassed and the corrupt

and the dishonest are being rewarded with promotions and honours. Here is a specific instance. Prosecution was launched against a Congressman who had been working and suffering for the cause of independence and had been discharging his duties as a Special Constable very honestly, in the disturbances of the partition. On the report of a Tehsildar on 22nd November 1947, he was prosecuted and convicted. On appeal the judgement was finally given by the Sessions Judge on the 1st July, 1949 and as a result of it he was honourably acquitted. But meanwhile he was grievously wronged and all his licences were forfeited, and the Tehsildar who had reported against him was given the promotion that he could be given. Here, I may, with your permission quote a few extracts from the judgement of the Sessions Judge.

"After giving my most anxious consideration to the evidence on record and the circumstances of the case, I entertain no doubt that this case against the accused is born of vendetta as a result of political action of the accused who belongs to the congress party."

Sir, it must seem surprising to you that such things are happening under the rule of the Congress Government. These are the words of the Sessions Judge himself. They are not mine. Further on, he records :—

"The report was made by the Tehsildar on 22-11-47 and the Police registered the case under section 409 I.P.C. From the statement of the Tehsildar in court, it would appear that an attempt has been made to improve upon the case against the accused."

Further on the Sessions Judge remarks :—

"The evidence is obviously vague and indefinite. There is no convincing, reliable and independent proof on record. I have come to the conclusion that the prosecution evidence is highly interested and discrepant."

Now, Sir, the Sessions Judge clearly passes strictures on the conduct of the Tehsildar and this very man is given promotion for bringing about the ruination of an honest and respectable citizen; and then no action is taken against him by this Government for his efforts to implicate an honest man. Now may I tell you, Sir, why this man got promotion, in spite of his reprehensible conduct? The reason is simply this. Parties were arranged by an influential relation of this man on the occasion of the visit of a highly-placed officer and arrangements were made for his entertainment in various other ways and the matter was there and then decided for the promotion of the Tehsildar. Those who were false

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witnesses in the case have free arms licences while the innocent victim stands deprived of his licence. Sir, honestly speaking, when we move about in our "*Ilaqas*" the people ask us, is this your Ram Rajya? Was it for establishing this sort of Government that the Congress had been fighting all these years? Is it on this sort of administration that we pride ourselves, wearing these shining, well pressed caps?

Sir, these Ministers have now lost faith in self suffering and have fallen easy victims to the temptation of self and power. Instead of showing any obligation of their being true and faithful to the interests of those whom they affect to serve, they come to the Assembly Chamber and having a comfortable seat, deliver the Budget Speech and then leave off. Under these circumstances, can people foster a feeling of veneration for them? These people have oft posed themselves as archangels in the chase of evil and have expressed anxiety to squelch corruption from the administration of the State. But instead of making any genuine efforts to remove it, they actually support the wrong-doers. It has come to my notice several times that the people often complain of corruption to the Ministers but they remain mum and indifferent in such matters. Their indifference to any such matters that are brought to their notice clearly bespeaks of their having no inclination to combat with these evils. I would now cite an example to show how corruption is flourishing in the Irrigation Department. Some time back I brought to the notice of the head of this Department how in a particular case the S. D. Os. and Overseers had misappropriated Government money in the task of digging earth. They actually got 50 cubic feet of land dug and charged for 100 cubic feet. The saving for 50 cubic feet was distributed among themselves. On my complaint, the authorities informed me that an inquiry was being made in the matter, though it resulted in smoke. On sifting the matters, the officers came to the conclusion that such a complaint could only be made after the facts were disclosed by the contractor concerned as the technical words 'bank measurement' used in the complaint were indicative of the fact that some subordinates were at the bottom of the whole affair. The result was that the poor contractor was penalised for no fault of his and the suspected overseer transferred. I can depict various such irregularities in graphic details but it will result in taking much time of the House. The example that I have cited above can give the honourable Members an

insight into the working of the Irrigation Department which happens to be directly under the control of our *Mukh Mantri* (Chief Minister). If this is so, the condition prevailing in the departments under the charge of *Amukh Mantris* must be worse.

Mr. Speaker : I think the honourable Member should withdraw this word.

Minister for Labour : Sir, the honourable Member does not know the meaning of this word.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The word 'Amukh' implies Ministers other than Chief Minister. I have tried to show by the aforesaid example how Government departments are riddled with corruption and I may say that such examples are not few in number. Now I advert to another department which is known as Anti-Corruption Department. About the Anti-Corruption Committee which consists of the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and the I. G. Police, I would say that there cannot be a more bogus body than this Committee. This Committee meets after a month or two and transacts no useful work whatsoever. It is all a farce and I think it is a sin to believe that this committee would ever be able to root out corruption from the State. Moreover, it has been observed that the District Officers are not issuing licences for firearms to public workers and are cancelling licences of unlicensed arms of desirable men. I know of such cases in Rohtak where the licences of such persons have been cancelled who are respectable and loyal and have rendered meritorious services to the Government. On the other hand licences for guns and revolvers have been extended to dangerous persons. Sometime back a licence-holder of a revolver had killed a person and has been sentenced to death. When he is hanged I wish that his dead body be shown to the Government so that it may realise its folly of having issued licences to such an undesirable element. There is another case wherein a licence-holder of unlicensed arms was arrested while committing an offence. It is a pity that the licences of such deserving persons who had made sacrifices in the struggle for freedom and had shown unflinching loyalty to the Congress should be cancelled. Such acts of omission and commission of Government servants really damage the reputation of the Government. I dare say that 90 % of the officers are not honest or impartial and are giving a bad name to the Government. As a matter of fact,

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I am surprised to find the hon. Chief Minister say that the services are known for their unflinching and steadfast loyalty to duty. I would give an instance of how the services are bringing this Government into disrepute. After a meeting of a Grow More Food Committee was over, a Deputy Commissioner whom I shall not name asked the members of the Committee to pray God that He may give enough sense to the Ministers. This is the attitude of the officers towards the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member himself has said such things a number of times.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I have a right to say so, but they have not any. Sir, many a time I have placed genuine complaints based on solid facts before the hon. Ministers but they have not cared to take any action on them. Where they have been good enough to take action and have issued some instructions, these have always been thrown into waste paper basket by the local officers. Here I shall give you a very interesting example. About three or four years ago a canal was dug in Tehsil Jhajjar and some land was acquired by the Government for this purpose. The House will be surprised to know that land revenue is still being charged for the acquired land from the zamindars though the canal is running over there. The zamindars are paying land revenue for the last three or four years for nothing. I brought this fact to the notice of the Government about three months ago but the matter is still under consideration.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Such is the case everywhere.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Chaudhri Sahib has been in the Government and knows everything fully well from within. Sir, there is absolutely no sense in charging land revenue in such a case and the pity is that if any one refuses he runs the risk of being sent to jail. This is not all. I can give numerous examples of inefficiency and dishonest work. The superior Officers apart, this Government is not in a position to reckon with the smaller fry. A reader of a court at Rohtak forcibly took possession of a panchayat house and when a suit was brought against him he managed its hearing in a court of his choice and the matter is still hanging fire. These things make me believe that we cannot expect any good work from our Government which cannot properly control its servants.

Sir, I belong to District Rohtak where prohibition is in force for some time past and for which the State has suffered loss of revenue

to the tune of rupees four lakhs a year. I can say that in spite of such a huge loss the condition of the District in this respect is not up to expectation. These very officers who are responsible for putting the scheme through are notorious drunkards and are having good time. These facts were brought to the notice of the hon. Minister concerned but to no effect. In my district we have an officer, of course a subordinate one, who is always drunk and has to be put into his chair by his chaprasi many times during the day. He once fell down from his horse owing to intoxication. But when a complaint was made about him to the hon. Minister concerned, he asked for proof. I asked him to find out if one man from the whole District comes forward to speak well of him to disprove the allegation. The Deputy Commissioner also took no action but rather shielded the scandalous conduct of his subordinate.

Now I would like to give you, Sir, an example of the treatment that is given to honest non-officials who desire to do some public service. A Congress man hearing speeches of persons like me got into his head to somehow uproot corruption among the commercial people. He had been nominated a member of the Civil Supplies Committee. He began by checking black marketers and weighing the iron and steel of different shopkeepers. The result was that he was removed from the membership of the Committee. This is the fate of a worker who was an avowed enemy of corruption in public life. Of course the previous Minister did not do any thing against him and it was only when my hon. Friend, the hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, took charge of the Department that the order of his removal was passed. I do not blame the Minister or even the Director as I do not suspect their honesty. I am sure they must have acted at the instance of some subordinate officers. These subordinate officers whether right or wrong are always defended by their superiors and whenever a complaint is filed against them the reply is, "the complaint has been investigated but is found to be baseless". It appears as if the Departments are ever ready with typed copies of this answer and one is despatched when any complaint comes up. I brought a case of high-handedness and unlawful beating against an A.S.I. to the notice of the Superintendent Police and the Deputy Superintendent Police concerned and they both regretted the man's behaviour but when a written complaint was made they defended their subordinate. These superior officers may be honest themselves but I dare say that they invariably protect their dishonest junior officers. They appear to be under some misapprehension that if they expose

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their subordinates, efficient administration may not be possible. Here I feel like uttering a word of praise for an English Deputy Commissioner who got removed a first class magistrate from his post when a complaint of corruption was made against him. So far as our Heads of Departments and big officers are concerned, they have not taken strong action against a single corrupt Gazetted Officer. Some officials might have been removed for other reasons, but action has not been taken against anyone on the merits of the case. I can say without fear of contradiction that ninety per cent of Government Officials are corrupt in a general sense. A majority of them were employed by the last foreign Government and they have therefore not been able to shake off their old mentality. I wish to tell the Government that they will not be able to do any useful work for the public so long as they do not give up their lethargy and weakness and bring about a change in the outlook and behaviour of services. We had to carry on a tough fight against the foreign Government to obtain independence. In the same way we shall have to give severe fight to the anti-national and unsympathetic services. I shall again point out that members of the services are very much below the mark. Most of them are undisciplined, anti-Congress and enemies of the Nation.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The hon. Member has used too strong words.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The facts of the case warrant it. It is a question of our life and death. The independence must be maintained at all costs. With these words Sir, I resume my seat. (*Cheers*).

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I bring to your notice, Sir, that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has used strong words against the members of services ?

(*Shri Bhim Sen Sachar rose to speak*)

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has any time limit been fixed for speeches ?

Mr. Speaker : From the list that has been handed over to me, I find that the number of hon. Members who want to take part in the discussion is pretty large. In the circumstances it would be better if a time limit is fixed.

Sardar Bachan Singh : That list has been given by only one party.

Mr. Speaker : I am not bound by that list. I can call any hon. Member. I fix 15 minutes as the time limit.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I would like to point out that there has been lack of uniformity in regard to this matter and it would be better if a uniform rule is made for such important occasions. Either you, Sir, appropriate to yourself the right of allowing time according to the contribution that a member can make to a particular discussion or prescribe a uniform rule which should be applicable to everybody. For the first time in the history of this Assembly more than an hour and twenty minutes have been given to an hon. Member who has initiated the debate on the general discussion of the budget. I do not grudge it, but my submission is that there should be some sort of uniform policy.

Mr. Speaker : I perfectly remember that when the hon. Member initiated the general discussion of the Budget in March 1948, he took nearly two hours. The Member who initiates the discussion is always given more time.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Shri Bhim Sen Sachar should be given enough time.

Mr. Speaker : Unless the hon. Member gets up, how can I know whether he wants to speak or not ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : He got up to speak. It looks very awkward that an hon. Member who has been the Premier of the Province should be made to speak after another Member. That was probably why he declined to speak.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Nothing of the sort. I felt that I will not be able to make any contribution in 15 minutes and that is why I resumed my seat.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : When once a Member has given up his right to speak, can he be called again to speak ?

Mr. Speaker : The Chair can use its discretion.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi :*)
Mr. Speaker, it is a very difficult task to speak on one's own Budget. A member who has to discuss the Budget of his own party has to adopt quite a different way of criticising it from the

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one which is adopted by Members of the Opposition. When there is practically only one party, the discussion of the Budget provides an opportunity for introspection. We have to examine as to how far we have succeeded in achieving our object. Keeping in view the difficulties with which we are faced, I feel that the Government deserves congratulations on the Budget which is now before us. Congratulations are due to the Government for the reason that in this Budget full effort has been made to meet all our expenditure within our means. At the same time, Sir, this serves as a danger signal and shows us where we stand. If the Revenue Account is examined, it would be noted that the estimated surplus of four lakhs is entirely undependable. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the House to the Explanatory Memorandum prepared by the learned Finance Secretary. At page XVII of the Memorandum it would be found that the Revenue Receipts for 1950-51 are estimated to amount to 14,44 lakhs and the Revenue Expenditure to 14,85 lakhs. Besides this, you will find, Sir, that this amount of Rs. 14,44 lakhs includes two uncertain items, namely Transport and *Abiana*. Regarding Transport nothing has been decided so far. It is yet not decided as to which routes are to be taken by the Government. To decide this matter, negotiations are at present proceeding with the representatives of that well organised body which only the other day succeeded in getting a Resolution passed in this House. What would be the out-come of those negotiations, is yet uncertain. The second uncertain item is *Abiana* which has been included in the estimated revenue receipts for the next year. Along with this it has been pointed out that a Resources and Retrenchment Committee would be appointed to consider the question of enhancement of *Abiana*. We do not know what would be the report of the Committee. It is therefore not correct to give or inspire false hopes in this way. I would like to point out that we are passing through a most critical period. We should know our financial position and our resources. If we want to run the Government, we should not hesitate to levy taxes wherever possible. The Government should take all available resources; they are at present inelastic and limited.

What is the position of our debts ? The debts of this State at present stand at more than Rs. 40 crores and by the end of the year they will rise to Rs. 54 crores. We have to see our resources and after definitely deciding about our expenditure, we

have to raise the necessary funds. This should not be a difficult job. If we have no funds, why can't the Government say so? I don't want to go into the question of particular resources at this time, because I know that nobody can say anything on this point offhand. But there is the authority of the able Finance Secretary to whom tributes have been paid. I am myself one of them who appreciate the good service rendered by an honest Officer. This Finance Secretary says that expenditure could still be reduced. I, therefore, point out to the Government that expenditure should be cut down wherever possible. Efforts shall have to be made in that direction. Along with this, I want to say that we should undertake as much work as can be done efficiently. It is not proper for us to expand our social services when we are already short of funds. Instead of starving the half nourished services that already exist, we should tell plain truth to the people. We are faced with a number of questions such as the raising of salaries of the low paid staff, and supplying of necessities of life to those who are not getting them at present. These people are hard put to on account of the rise in prices. Under these circumstances it is incumbent on the Government to look after the people who are taken in service. Let the number be reduced to fifty from one hundred, but the fifty must be provided all the facilities.

If we have to build up this State of ours, and it is obvious that we all wish that, we shall have to make the maximum contribution that we can make. If this ruined State is to be raised once more, the foremost question to be tackled is the rehabilitation of those displaced persons who have come here after having lost their everything in Pakistan. I would like to point out that this question if it is to be solved, will not be solved in the way in which it has been handled so far. If anybody could give compensation for the loss of property worth millions of rupees, it should be Pakistan. But Pakistan is not prepared for that. If the Government wants that those people should go wherever they like, they should fall ill and should get demoralised, it can do that. But this policy will, in the end, prove most fatal for the country. The price that it would have to pay in this way would be much more than the compensation paid to them otherwise. These people are inferior to none, in shape, form or intellect. Yet they are helpless today. The Government should keep this thing in mind and should impress upon the Government of India to do something. If it is not possible to levy fresh taxes, something else must be done. After all, who can deny that India got independence at the cost

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of the sacrifices undergone by these people ? The rest of India was enjoying the fruits of freedom because of the sufferings of the displaced persons. When partition was accepted, these were the 4 P.M. persons who agreed to live under difficult conditions so that others may have the blessings of independence and India may cast off the chains of slavery. So in my opinion a few crores of rupees cannot solve the problem of rehabilitating these persons who have been uprooted from their homes. So long as the country as a whole does not get prepared to tackle this problem and so long as it does not consider it to be a national liability, all other efforts appear to be a perfect farce. I don't say that the displaced persons are not grateful for what has already been done by way of helping them. But still I feel that bold steps need be taken in this direction. Punjab Government should ask the Centre, irrespective of any other consideration, to come to the aid of the suffering millions with a bolder measure.

Sir, another thing of which I would like to make mention is the problem of Pakistan. The hon. Chief Minister has referred to this problem in his speech. The way which the Government of Pakistan is treading is a dangerous one. We wish to be at peace with the sister Dominion, but conditions there are such that they have developed into a real danger to us. Our Prime Minister has rightly tried to avoid war. As a matter of fact he does not want war. But experience tells us that after all it so happens that the other party goes on with its evil designs. Pakistan is busy with such designs. So the time has come when it has become extremely necessary for Punjab as a Frontier Province to realise its responsibility and make it clear to the Government of India and the world that the designs of Pakistan can no more be excused and tolerated.

Chaudri Krishna Gopal Dutt : But my hon. Friend is a member of the Indo-Pakistan Friendship League.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, I am a member of the Indo-Pakistan Friendship League. There are other members also in India. It is my earnest desire to see friendship and amity prevailing between the two Dominions. I want a safe and honourable living for people wherever they want to live as law abiding citizens. I don't want that people should be ill-treated in any Dominion on account of the religion to which they might belong.

Chaudri Krishna Gopal Dutt : But no safety is ensured to any one in Pakistan.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : That is why I say that that Dominion is a challenge not only to India but to all the civilized countries of the world. There are conditions prevailing in Pakistan which are a danger to the peace and tranquillity of civilized living. It has become necessary for us to raise our voice against the state of affairs in that Dominion. I appreciate the appeal made by the Chief Minister that the prime need of the hour is unity among the citizens of our State. But I wish to submit that the question whether there is unity or not in a State depends largely upon the Government. In my opinion it is the responsibility of those who govern. They are the persons in whose hands lies the destiny of the people. My honourable Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has put forward his idea with some force and effectiveness. It is right that much depends upon the way in which the services act. It is also correct to say that all of the members of the services are not of the type which they ought to be. But in my humble opinion, if we allow the services to function independently, they can be successful in laying good traditions to some extent. In difficult times also the services are prepared to work faithfully provided they are assured of honest and proper treatment. They can play their part well in times of emergency. But we should not interfere in their work. We have our own sphere of work. Our contribution as Members is to create a feeling of confidence in the State and in the administration. It is not a difficult task. We have only to be sincere and honest in the performance of our duties. Black marketing can be easily stopped if we work without fear or favour. It is action that matters and not words. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the iron and steel cases. There were seventy six of them in all. Enquiries were carried out. Time as well as money was spent in order to bring the culprits to book. The cases were carried to the courts of law. But now the Government has decided to fight only four of these cases. The rest have been put in cold storage. My submission is that you may just think of the feelings of the man in the street who daily reads or hears the news from the newspapers. His feeling is that Government has no intention to go against the black-marketeers. It does not want to prosecute them. Well, Sir, I fail to understand why the Executive should interfere with the work of the Judiciary. Is not the Government aware of the fact that it always depends upon the will of the trying magistrate to decide as to which case he will take up first? As a matter of fact it is up to him to take up any case out of the cases entrusted to him for trial. But what do we find here? Instructions are issued by the Government to

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a certain trying magistrate to transfer certain cases connected with the steal scandal, to Ludhiana. I may point out that any person having an elementary knowledge of the law knows it full well that it lies with the High Court to order the transfer of a case from one district to another and not with the State Government. Then, Sir, four persons from amongst the accused are selected for trial as test cases. But who are those persons? They are those who drew steal quotas of one or two tons. They are poor and helpless persons who do not enjoy the support of any big guns. If the Government is in right earnest to eradicate black-marketing root and branch, then it should not spoil these cases. May I ask whether there are no persons from amongst the accused who drew steel quotas to the tune of 100 tons? Have they not been left out because they wield immense power and influence? Are they not those people who have great approach to certain influential Members of the Assembly? I ask, why should they not be prosecuted? Law will decide their innocence. I say with full responsibility that it would be better to give a regular trial to 10 persons and let the law have its own course, than not to try them at all, and earn the odium of the public that Government is not impartial in the matter.

Then, Sir, I have a document in my possession from which I would like to quote, to show how honest persons are victimised for their endeavour to expose black-marketers, and how undue pressure is brought to bear upon them to change their statements. This document has been sent by an Engineer. I would read out certain extracts. It is stated therein :—

“On second of July 1949, the Investigating Officer visited the office of the Company for investigation. The whole matter was placed before the police. Some quantity of steel which was sold in black market, was captured by the police officer at the railway station when it was going to be exported. It is still lying at the Sadar police station.”

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member may have to lay this document on the table of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I shall be very glad to do so.

“Some time later what happened Mr. * *-* (I won't mention his name) started using his influence upon the employees and wanted them to resile from their original statements and also made false promises that if they did so nobody would start cases against them.”

As far as I know the police has prepared about 18 cases with documentary evidence. The gentleman goes on to say :

"I can myself prove that black market in this case is to the tune of one lakh and twenty five thousand rupees."

You will, see, Sir, that the gentleman is prepared to undertake the responsibility of what he says and to substantiate the charge. But what happened ? The Government took no action in the matter. That Engineer was asked to resile from his statement but he refused to do so. Consequently he was sacked from service. Now, Sir, when such things are happening under the very nose of our Government, how can people feel contented under its regime ?

Then, Sir, I cite another case. I will not mention the name of the place or the persons involved. This case will elucidate the fact as to how things are unjustly handled by the Government. In a premier municipality of our State, the president is duly elected with the unanimous vote of the members. But the Government refuses to publish his name in the Government gazette, without any rhyme or reason. Now, Sir, when a president of a local body is elected, Government is to see whether that person is fit to hold that office. For the purpose of ascertaining this fact reports from the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner are called. In other words Government is required to see *prima facie* whether everything is in order. In this particular case reports are sent by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner to the Government. But Government would not be satisfied. They criticise the election and ask the officers to submit whether such and such flaws did or did not exist in the election of the President of that Municipality. I ask, when the reports of the officers are favourable and there is nothing against the gentleman who has been unanimously elected, why should the Government go against the reports and wrongly and illegally refuse to publish his name in the gazette ? This is the worst example that I have ever come across in which public opinion has so mercilessly been flouted. Besides this, Mr. Speaker, about 40 members of the Assembly appealed to the Government that this action of the Government has caused a slur on the fair name of the Congress Government and that the mistake should be rectified. But this Government of ours would pay no heed to this reasonable request. When such is the state of affairs in the Punjab that justice is denied to the people, how can the public hear the appeals of the Government made in the name of Mahatma Gandhi ? We are told day in and day out by the Government that we should make every endeavour to follow in the foot

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steps of Bapu and try to achieve the ideal he had set before us. I ask, why should the name of Mahatma Gandhi be brought in when the Government itself does not follow the path carved out by him? As a matter of fact the actions of the Government belie their professions. Sometime ago in a press conference our Chief Minister declared that nominations to local bodies had been stopped as the new Constitution of India prohibited it. But you will be surprised to hear that soon after that announcement, Government nominated members to that very municipality the president of which was unanimously elected and the Government refused to publish his name in the gazette. Now the Government has no guts to declare that the duly elected president is not fit to hold that Office. The pity of the case is that that gentleman is also the leader of the Congress Party of that Committee and yet the Congress Government refuses to gazette the name of their fellow congressman who has been duly elected as president of the municipality. It pains me to say that such action of the Government has tarnished the fair name of the Congress. Now the difficulty is that under party discipline, our lips are sealed but our heads hang down in shame. Then, Sir, new members are nominated and a conspiracy is hatched to bring a no-confidence motion against that gentleman.

Mr. Speaker : This is an insinuation.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Then I won't go any further with this matter. At this stage I take the opportunity of saying a few things and saying them openly on the floor of the House. I have all along been saying this unequivocally that we cannot and should not try to enter into any competition with the services in the field of efficiency and experience and if we do so we are sure to come to grief. It will not be out of place to mention here that many amongst us cannot claim to be as efficient as they are. (*Chaudhri Suraj Mal :* Is the hon. Member one of them ?) There is no doubt about it that there are at least many amongst us who are very earnest to do some good and substantial work and I am sure they can succeed if only they do everything in an impersonal way and always keep in their mind the very aims and objects for which they stand and strive. But on the contrary one is apt to be disappointed when one finds that things are being done in a quite different way and also to the detriment of others. I have a letter in my possession from a certain person who writes to say that such and such a person has informed him that his case which was about to be settled in his favour was spoiled without any rhyme or reason. What I wish to

point out is this that the only thing that is essentially required at present and which is the need of the hour is that there should be no interference whatsoever with the normal working of the administration. On the one hand we hear the hon. Chief Minister say that we must all unite and that there should be complete unity amongst us, while on the other, we find him saying many things against the appointment of District Public Relation Committees. Here I have no hesitation in saying that this organization which is very good and useful has been instrumental in fulfilling the desires of the non-officials to serve the masses and serve them well along with the officials of the Government. It is an open secret that the rules regarding this organization have been studied by the services in the Secretariat and also by His Excellency the Governor. Under these rules meetings of District Public Relation Committees were to be held monthly with a view to placing both the official and the non-official points of view before these committees. But now the position is quite different and that is this. Now a Deputy Commissioner writes to say. "Now it is discretionary on the part of the Deputy Commissioner to call a meeting or not." It is clear from this that now the Deputy Commissioner can use his discretionary powers and hold the meeting of this Committee at his sweet will.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Member has been giving a long rope to the services.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : My hon. Friend has just now remarked that I had been giving a long rope to services. I wish to assure him that I had never been doing so. Far from it. Meetings of these committees were held monthly and decisions on important matters were also taken. But the word "now" has effected a great change and the responsibility for not holding monthly meetings lies somewhere else. Does the House in general and the hon. Member who just interrupted me in particular forget that these very services used to attend and leave office in time? At that time things were done according to the wishes of the hon. Members and also in the interests of the administration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : No, that was not done.

Mr. Speaker : I would expect from the hon. Member that he would not interrupt. He has had his say and nobody interrupted him. The hon. Member should now try to wind up; he has already taken about 40 minutes.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I wish to submit that we should lay much stress on the point whether or not the public has any confidence in us. If we probe into this matter we will find how people cannot repose any confidence in us. On the one hand we find the hon. Chief Minister laying full emphasis on unity amongst us, while on the other we find him trying to make statements on the floor of the House to the effect that such and such a Bill could not be brought in the House because my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjul Singh was not in its favour and so on and so forth. I am really constrained to remark that I really fail to understand the justification on the part of the hon. Chief Minister in making such statements in view of the fact that there existed only one party and that he himself was working as the Finance Minister. What we require at this critical hour is that we should prove by our deeds that people live in peace and plenty and that justice is being done to them. We should also prove that people are not put to any inconvenience and that the interests of the tenants are well safeguarded. These are the needs of the hour. Are all these things being done in our State? It will not be out of place to mention here that people in every nook and corner of the State have grown uneasy. May I know what steps our Government has taken to set all these things right? May I know whether our Government has taken steps to implement the decision made by the previous Ministry to the effect that the Federal Court be requested to appoint one judge to enquire into the allegations against all the Ministers, past and present, and also the hon. Members of this House? May I know how far the Government has succeeded in implementing this decision? It had also been decided during the regime of the previous Ministry that some officer should be appointed to collect all the necessary material in this connection with a view to facilitating the work of that judge. I had every hope and expectation that the hon. Chief Minister would refer to this matter in his Budget Speech so as to enable us to know for ourselves as to how and to what extent our Government had succeeded in wiping out corruption, black-marketing, nepotism and other malpractices which have been instrumental in bringing disrepute to our Government. I am really constrained to remark that no such reference was made in the Budget speech and that no action whatsoever has so far been taken by the present Government. This is not all. The House is already fully aware of the fact that Lala Duni Chand, an able and experienced person and also an ex-M. L. A., shouldered the entire responsibility upon himself and submitted all such allegations to the Government

in the interests of this State. But as ill-luck would have it, nothing is heard about it. On the other hand we find our Government all powerful in coercing and suppressing the poor and low paid Government servants and goes even to the extent of dismissing them without any rhyme or reason. Where it is necessary to take strong action against big and influential persons, our Government does not hesitate to defend such persons and goes to the extent of hiding their misdeeds. If this be the state of affairs in our State and if our Government continues hiding the misdeeds of such persons, I am sure our Government cannot and will not run the administration successfully. By resorting to such means, our Government is sure to earn a very bad name as a result of which we will not be in a position to face people and we will have to hang our heads in shame. We will be put to disgrace simply because of the misdeeds of our Government. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper on our part to work in such a way that we may succeed in creating confidence in the hearts of the masses. People should have at least this much satisfaction that their Government would do justice to them and that while eliminating corruption, black-marketing and other malpractices, it would not spare any person whosever he may be.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural,) (Hindi) : Sir, I want to assure you and the hon. Members of this House at the very outset that what I have risen for to say, I shall say in all seriousness and with a full sense of responsibility. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and Shri Bhim Sen Sachar who have spoken before me have lightened my task to a considerable extent. So far as the conduct of this Government and the Congress party is concerned, not much remains to be said, since both the hon. Members have thrown considerable light on this matter. We have heard the achievements of the Congress Ministry. Now I feel constrained to point out that my Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has not placed the whole picture before the House. He has laid emphasis only on one aspect. He has stated that the services are corrupt, most inefficient, untrustworthy and irresponsible. I would submit, Sir, that this is one side of the picture and that too the wrong one. I am convinced that if the services had not come to our rescue in the post-partition period, the ship of this State would have long ago foundered. For sometime, no doubt, the administrative machinery would have continued to function just as the train continues to move for sometime even when the motive force is withdrawn, but soon the collapse would have come, if everything had been dependent

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upon our hon. Ministers. In that case peace to-day would have been conspicuous by its absence and whatever little tranquillity we find in the province to-day would not have been there. It has been said that 90 % of the services are corrupt and insubordinate. I join issue with Panditji in this matter. I don't think the services are to blame as much as the public men who day in and day out interfere with the work of administration, would not let any officials work uninterruptedly and would bring to bear all kinds of pressure and influence on them in order to achieve their objects. The moment an official thinks of taking a decision, untrammelled by any extraneous considerations, scores of 'chits' and recommendatory letters would be brought to him to sway his judgement. Is there a single Member in this House who can, honestly speaking, aver that he has never tried to interfere with the work of day-to-day administration in any manner?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I claim to be one who has never attempted to do so.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I too claim never to have done this.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Just as Panditji has admitted that 10 per cent of the personnel of services is honest, I too admit that 10 per cent of the Members may well claim to be so. So far as my knowledge goes, not only the Members of this House but even other public men do not let any officer discharge his responsibility in an unfettered manner and would invariably try to sway his judgement by 'chits' taken from Ministers. The poor officer would in fact be compelled to go against his judgement and act in accordance with their wishes. Panditji has cited the case of a person against whom criminal proceedings were instituted simply because he was a congress worker. I would challenge Panditji to speak the truth and say if it is not a fact that the person in question has made money by indulging in misappropriation. Sufficient evidence might not have been forthcoming and he might have been acquitted for that reason, but does Panditji honestly hold the opinion that he has not been guilty of any malpractices?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes, I honestly consider him to be above board.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Well, I accept the challenge. Let this matter be referred to anybody whom Panditji regards as an

honest person and I shall adduce evidence to prove that the said person is not so innocent as Panditji seems to consider him. Sir, what I mean to say is that the conduct of most of the Congress workers is not above board and they have been indulging in all kinds of malpractices. (*Interruptions*). Sir, has the discipline of the Congress party fallen so low, that they would not let me proceed with my speech ? Without caring to comment on this exhibition of their discipline, I would better continue. As soon as the country attained independence, these people, I mean the Congressmen began to think that they were now the rulers of the country. Wearing these caps they would go to every officer and meddle with his work. They would interfere with every administrative matter ; they would consider the officers their domestic servants who should be ready to do anything at their bidding. Things came to such a pass, that they became bold enough to intimidate the services. When this has been the state of affairs, how can we blame the services ? This was just by the way.

Now I would begin what I have to say with regard to the Budget. The way the Congress Government has been administering the affairs of the province for the last two and a half years must have become clear to the hon. Members after listening to the speeches of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and Shri Bhim Sen-Sachar. I would ask, where are those promises and professions of the Congress which it had made in its manifestos from time to time, about the betterment of the condition of the poor masses and the upliftment of the backward classes ? What do we find now ? All gone to the winds. Instead of doing anything for ameliorating the condition of the peasantry consisting mostly of small '*biswadars*' in possession of uneconomic holdings, instead of redeeming the oft repeated old promise of giving them exemption from the payment of land revenue, it is proposed to increase the burden of taxation on them by enhancing the rate of *abiana*. Is that justice, is that fairplay ? Will they be able to bear this additional burden or will they get crushed beneath it ? I am sorry to observe that the hon. Chief Minister is not in his seat and in his absence all that I am saying will not receive the attention that it deserves ; I wish he were in his seat at this time, so that this matter would have received proper attention by the Government. Sir, on the one hand the burden of taxation on the rural people has been increased, and on the other hand whatever few facilities and benefits they were receiving, have been withdrawn. For instance, no provision has been made for the Peasants Welfare Fund

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out of which the children of poor peasants paying land revenue upto Rs 25, and not in a position to afford to give them higher education, were granted scholarships of adequate amounts to pursue their studies. Besides, there used to be a Development Fund for the benefit of the rural people. This, too, is nowhere to be seen in the Budget for the next year. On the other hand besides land revenue and 'abiana' the incidence of local rate has also been increased and the 'chowkidara' has been doubled. I don't deny that the chowkidars should be paid adequate remuneration for their work. But as has been several times represented, it would surely be better to have only as many comparatively well-paid chowkidars in the villages as are necessary instead of a large number of them all ill-paid. It has been many times requested, that instead of four, two 'chowkidars' would do for each village. But nothing has been done to relieve the villagers of the unnecessary burden.

(At this Stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker)

Sir, now I would like to mention about the burden of enhanced water rate that has fallen on the weak shoulders of peasants to which a reference has been made by the hon. Chief Minister in his Budget speech. The Government may claim justification in increasing the water rate on the ground that the agriculturists' income has now increased consequent upon the rise of prices of agricultural produce. But such justification is not well founded. They are still steeped in poverty and can ill-afford to bear the brunt of this taxation. I feel no hesitation in admitting that any tax levied by the Government with a view to improving the condition of the State may be considered justifiable. But I find that such taxes are generally imposed upon such class of people who are weak and cannot raise their voice of protest against the Government. I must condemn such policy of the Government. You know, Sir, that the urban element and the trading classes are more and more vocal in regard to their taxes and they begin to cry hoarse when their pockets are touched. It will be observed that the sales tax was originally imposed upon the trading class but subsequently the Government exempted certain class of people which exerted pressure upon the Government. It is a strange anomaly that the persons who have the capacity to pay taxes are being exempted by the Government and the poor people are burdened more and more with

the taxes. Direct taxes are being imposed upon the rural class of people who form the bulk of the population in our State. It is strange that the Government should adopt the policy of burdening the poor because they cannot start any agitation against the policy of the Government. Under these circumstances, it makes little difference for us if Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava or Shri Bhim Sen Sachar holds the office of Chief Minister because they are both indifferent to the interests of rural masses. They may have their differences with each other, but in matters where distinction of urbanite and ruralite is involved, they are one.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Do you claim to be a ruralite ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, a resolution was moved in the House sometime back to reserve adequate percentage for rural class of people in Government services, but it was rejected by the House on the ground that the new Constitution does not admit of percentages in Government services except for the backward classes. With this present state of affairs, it is being said that no controversy should be raised between ruralite and urbanite and that any suggestion that creates a gulf between these two classes of people should be avoided. I would submit that 85 percent of population in India comprises rural class of people and in fact India lives in villages. You would have noticed, Sir, that whenever any cartoon depicting India is published in any newspaper, a poor farmer is shown to represent India. But if anybody raises his voice to improve the lot of village masses, his action is considered to be most unpatriotic. The ideal of every man should be to treat all persons alike but unfortunately our Government is always following a policy of discrimination towards its subjects, which naturally creates heart-burning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should wind up his speech. I have given him two minutes more.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, I may point out to you that discretion was being exercised by you in the allotment of time when my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar was making a speech, but if I ask for more time, it is strange that my request is not granted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member may proceed with his speech.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, the Government's attitude is like that of a person who was sitting in a boat and warned the people whom he did not wish to accommodate, of the serious consequences as it would sink if anybody stepped in. But such a contingency would never arise if his own men got into the boat. Similarly our Ministers have been recruiting their own men at one time on the excuse of merit and at another time on the consideration of refugees. They have drifted away from their principles from time to time but they will not budge an inch in a case in which they do not feel interested. This is the way in which they have distributed favours lavishly to their own men. I would ask the hon. Chief Minister to act up to the principles of making selection on the basis of efficiency and merit but I am sure he will not adhere even to this principle but would relax it whenever it suits his purpose. The main difficulty is that a poor peasant's son who experiences numerous handicaps from the very beginning is asked to compete with urbanites who have all the advantages and facilities from the very start. If these facilities are provided to the children of backward rural classes, they will certainly excel urbanites in merit and efficiency. But the pity is that lack of such facilities has crippled the advancement of these children who are at a disadvantage to compete successfully with urbanites. People who grow food for the country and carry the sword for the defence of the land should in no case be kept backward. Pursuing such a policy is not only an injustice to them but is calculated to be very injurious for the country as a whole. These growers of our food fought for us in Hyderabad and will again be at our beck and call in case some enemy attempts to violate our borders. In these circumstances I would request the Government not to dishearten them by subjecting them to any kind of disabilities in the garb of efficiency and merit. I am convinced if the present policy is continued by Government it will do incalculable harm to our State.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh [Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural] (*Hindustani*) : Sir, before I begin with my speech I wish to congratulate my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma as whatever he has said is true to a very great extent. I honestly feel that after the attainment of freedom by the country every Member should consider it his bounden duty to place before the House such suggestions which are for the good of the country. This is more so in the absence of any opposition. Here I wish to invite the attention of hon. Members to a very useful tradition which pre-

ailed during the British regime but is now conspicuous for the last two and a half years by its absence. The Heads of Departments who heard the speeches of hon. Members always made notes of the suggestions and in their own way tried to act upon them, say up to the extent of 3 or 4 per cent. But unfortunately in the changed conditions now nobody appears to pay any heed to what is said in this House.

Sir, whatever Pandit ji has said regarding the General Administration is true to a very large extent but he forgot to mention a few facts and I mean to take them up. There is no doubt that in services we come across officers who are trained on the old lines and do their level best to harm people who are Congress-minded. But at the same time we have officers and I may with your permission name one of them, for example, Sardar Tarlok Singh, who showed us ways out of dangerous and difficult situations. He rendered yeoman's service in resettling our displaced brethren in a proper way. Some time ago when our Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, went on a tour of villages of District Jullunder and enquired about the welfare of the new settlers who I admit haven't got their due, they replied that they would be very happy if they were given rights of ownership over the land that was allotted to them because then they would be in a position to set up their own percolation and tube wells. I dare say that our services do contain men of merit. It will be recalled that an hon. Member who is at this time present in this House once deplored the condition of District Ferozepore after the partition. Girls and rich men used to be kidnapped very frequently and the offenders appeared to come from the Patiala States Union. But thanks to the efforts of the Superintendent of Police at Ferozepore, the situation has been brought under control without the aid of military.

Sir, it has been suggested that Government should do away with inefficient officers. But I ask, how is it possible for the Chief-Minister to turn out any officer he does not like? Everyone knows that the constitution which has been prepared under the able guidance of our Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister contains no provision under which the services of an officer may be easily dispensed with. Unless and until a regular charge is proved against an officer the Chief Minister is not in a position to turn him out. But in spite of it I may tell Pandit ji that though our people suffered untold miseries on account of partition they did not face any serious trouble here in this State after the 15th August,

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1947. Unlike Russia which suffered from a Civil War for about 4 years and Burma where a civil war is still on, our State has ever been able to maintain law and order. There is no gainsaying the fact that maintenance of efficient administration depends not on our speeches made in this House but on services who can act rightly when there is a stable Government which can give them an economic programme.

My hon. Friends Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and Chaudhri Suraj Mal have remarked that taxes are being imposed on the poor instead of on the rich. I request them that they should come up with proposals in a Congress Assembly Party meeting to tax the rich, if they have any though I think that the taxes like the Income Tax and the death tax which can be imposed on the rich have already been levied on them by the Central Government. In my opinion fortunately or unfortunately 85 % of the population of this State is made up of zamindars and taxes will have to be borne by them. However if a suitable scheme to tax the rich is forthcoming, I shall certainly support it.

Sir, it has been pointed out that the financial condition of the State as shown by the Budget is not very satisfactory. I am not a *bania* and therefore do not understand the intricacies and complexities of the Budget. I can say one thing and it is this that we are a border province and whenever short of money we will have to go to the Central Government for help. It is their duty to support us. It has been said that adequate funds are not being advanced by the Government of India for completing the Bhakra and Nangal projects. I ask the hon. Members that they should not be disappointed. There is a banking firm which is prepared to give us the necessary loan. Even if this arrangement be not possible, necessary funds can be had from the International Bank. The proposal is under the consideration of the Prime Minister and I can assure the House that we will have no trouble on account of money.

Sir, Mr. Sachar, our ex-Premier was pleased to say that he had set up an Advisory Board whose decisions were very rigidly enforced. I remember it was once decided by the Board that people should be given the right of taking their cases to the Public Service Commission after they had been decided upon by Heads of the Depart-

ments and the Ministers. You were also a member of the General Board Sir, and would perhaps remember that the decisions made by it were unanimous but no action has been taken on its recommendations, so far.

5. P.M.

Then Sir, the ex-Premier said that he wrote a note for obtaining the services of some Judges of the Supreme Court for making enquiry into cases of corruption. So far as I remember, he wrote this note on the 17th and resigned the next day. As you know, Sir, the services of the Judges of the Supreme Court could not be obtained by the mere writing of a note. For this purpose the Chief Secretary and the Legal Remembrancer had to be consulted. He wrote in that note that the public should be invited to submit any complaints they might have against any Minister. It was not the case of issuing tickets for a cinema show. The Ex-Premier is a very able person and he knows that nepotism and corruption in the State cannot be removed by these means. If he says that he tried to put an end to these evils by adopting such means, he would be doing great injustice to the Congress organisation. In this connection I shall cite the instance of a high officer, whom the Judges of High Court had declared incompetent for his job. He was removed from that post on the basis of that report but as soon as the ex-Premier assumed the reigns of office, he re-appointed that person. I do not wish to call it an act of nepotism but it was certainly not a proper thing to do. It is our misfortune that when a person happens to be the Premier of the State, he holds views which are quite different from those which he held as an ordinary Member. Several speeches were made by the ex-Premier in which he said that Ambala Steel Syndicate had earned a profit of six lakhs of rupees by certain means. I wish to tell him through you, Sir, that it is a limited company and its President is one of the Secretaries to the Government. No member of this syndicate had earned a profit of more than three thousand rupees in any single year. The learned ex-Premier is an eminent business-man and he should know that the share-holders of a limited company cannot make such huge profits. This Syndicate used to issue steel received from the Government of India to permit-holders and it comprised traders from the East Punjab and those who had come from the West Punjab, It was said that the present Chief Minister helped two persons to earn a sum of six lakhs of rupees. I am not astonished to hear such statements because I feel that our slavery for centuries has made us lack character.

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Then, Sir, it has been said that this Government has not arranged to obtain sufficient money from the Central Government for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. I shall ask my hon. Friends to accompany us to the hon. Prime Minister whom we shall tell that unless he gave us the required amount of money, we would sit '*dharna*' in front of his house. I know that when Panditji feels annoyed, all my friends would run away. I admit, Sir, that unless the Central Government gives us billions of rupees, we cannot solve the problem of rehabilitation.

It has been said that the Government has failed to secure sufficient amount from the Government of India for the construction of Bhakra Dam. Nobody can deny the urgency of the completion of this Project as this State will derive immense benefits from it. Thirty new *Mandis* would be opened and income of our peasants would be increased by about thirty five or thirty six lakhs of rupees. If we have not been able to obtain the necessary help from the Central Government, it is on account of the speeches which some of my Congress friends including Members of this House, make at different places. I wish to assure the House, Sir, that Bhakra Scheme would be completed at all costs. The hon. Prime Minister of our Union will shortly pay a visit to Bhakra Dam and I leave it to the hon. Members to form their judgement from the statement which he may issue at the close of his visit.

Then, Sir, it was said that Public Relations Committees constituted in the State were dissolved by the present Chief Minister. I wish to submit, Sir, that there committees consisted of members of one party only. The Provincial Congress Committee had not been consulted in this matter. The Chief Minister has invited proposals from the Provincial Congress Committee and will set up Public Relations Committees as soon as he is free from the Budget Session. He has decided to include in these Committees not only members of all shades of opinion within the Congress but some outsiders also. We should rise above this kind of criticism and should think of means for improving the condition of this State. We can do so by achieving unity and maintaining a stable Government.

Then, Sir, we should not go on condemning the services in season and out of season. If we have been saddled with responsibility in this State we should do justice to the services and should not let them feel unprotected. If some one is found to be corrupt and the charge is proved against him, we should not hesitate from taking

severe action, but in the absence of any such thing we should not unnecessarily criticise them. It has been said, Sir, that the administration in this State is not as efficient as in other States. I wish to inform the hon. Members through you, Sir, that our administration is much better than that at the Centre, in Uttra Pradesh or in Bihar. It was also complained, Sir, that cases against some hon. Members had not been proceeded with. I may submit in this connection, Sir, that if with all his zeal the ex-Premier could not get them jailed, why should he expect the poor Chief Minister to do that ? The previous Ministry did its utmost to arrest those persons and its Police Officers also tried their best. But they did not succeed. Those Police Officers, however, got promotions in six hours ; Deputy Superintendents became Superintendents. How could the poor Chief Minister now have brought false cases against the people ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether the term "false cases" is not an insinuation ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I meant false cases put up by the police.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it proper to say "poor Chief Minister" who has all powers at his command ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether the hon. Member is speaking in his personal capacity or he is replying on behalf of the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It is said by hon. Members like Chaudhri Suraj Mal that the Government is not doing anything for the agriculturists. I agree with him to a certain extent. But I would like to point out that the previous Premier made an announcement at Hissar that an Ordinance for stopping the ejectments of tenants would be issued. But later on he could not do so or he dared not do it. Now it is said that the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava is not doing anything for the tenants. I may inform the House that an Ordinance would certainly be issued after full consideration of the matter. But the problem of tenants is not the same everywhere. It is different at different places such as Tehsil Garh Shankar, Ferozepore District, Amritsar District and Ambala District. If we were to immediately get an Ordinance issued to stop ejectments of tenants, how would the soldiers who have got

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four or five acres of land, be able to continue to carry rifles for the safety of the country ? The hon. Members who advocate such hasty steps know how to talk but are ignorant of the problems of administration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Can he bring in the Congress party or the Congress policy ? He is to speak for the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It is no point of order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it for the Chair to decide or for the hon. Member to give a ruling ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No interruption. Let him proceed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Again the ex-Premier pointed out that it would not have mattered if ten innocent persons had also been punished along with other offenders. As a lawyer, he should have known that according to law one hundred offenders may be set free but the one innocent person must not get punished. In this connection I am reminded of the story of a ruler who sentenced a criminal to death. The noose would not fit the man to be hanged. When the ruler was told of this fact, he replied that anybody else whose neck is fit for the noose, may be hanged. Such a thing cannot be done today. We shall have to work in a way which would inspire confidence in the minds of public to the effect that the Government wants to dispense justice to everybody alike. I would like to point out that the decision to institute cases against only four persons, was arrived at after taking into consideration the opinions of the Advocate General, Inspector Generals of Police and other big officers.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann : That is a wrong statement.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : After the decision of the High Court the Government, in consultation with an independent Board, whom Shri Sachar himself regarded as independent, decided to proceed with only four cases. As regards the transferring of these cases to Ludhiana from Ambala, I may say that this has been done to avoid inconvenience to people. If such a thing has been done, I wonder how it can be called a case of favouritism. It has been said that the cases could not be transferred without the permission of the High Court. But I would like to submit that the Government could do that under executive powers. Even Shri Bhim Sen Sachar did the same when he was Premier.

In the end, I would like to submit that we are now free and as such there devolves on us a heavy responsibility. We have to run the administration ; we have to improve the conditions in our State ; we have to rehabilitate the uprooted people. Not only that, the responsibility for defending the whole country rests on us. For this purpose it is necessary that the hands of the Government should be fully strengthened. If we have anything to say, it can be said to the hon. Ministers privately. The greatest jewel produced by the Congress in our Province is now in the Cabinet. I mean Dr. Lehna Singh. So it is the duty of everyone of us to strengthen the Government by extending wholehearted co-operation to it.

Sir, I don't wish to take much of the time of this House but still I consider it my duty to say one or two things more. I admit that there are some short-comings in the administration. I am aware of the fact that some of the orders of the hon. Ministers are not put into practice as they should be. But I would appeal to the hon. Members to co-operate with the Government for twelve months and then see what improvements it makes. Mere criticism does no good. We should try to be helpful to the Government. If in the districts the Congress Committees do not extend a helping hand, what can the Ministers do ? They cannot keep a watch on the Patwaris themselves. There may be some truth in the statement that ever since the British left India there has been some slackness in the administration. But the matters cannot be set right by mere criticism. Moreover we cannot change the state of affairs overnight. After all some time is needed for making improvements and if we have patience, in due course the matters will be set right. We can help the Government by some constructive suggestions and we should always be ready to do our bit. I appreciate the sentiments of those who have levelled criticism against the Government. I assure Chaudhri Sahib that in the near future the burden of taxation on the poor will decrease and that on the rich will increase. It is only a question of time. At present we are passing through difficult days. Our finances are weak. It is the duty of the Central Government to help us in running the administration of this Province. It is their responsibility as well as their moral obligation. Partition was agreed to by the Central Government and so they are responsible for giving us finances.

There is one thing which I would like to point out to the hon. Ministers. For the sake of better administration they should give higher and higher powers to the heads of departments, that is to say

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they should give the full powers to deal with the staff so that efficiency might increase. So long as this policy is not followed, the administration cannot improve. The second thing is that in order to stop corruption and bribery I would suggest that the Superintendents of Police should be called and told that if any subordinate of theirs takes any bribe he shall be held responsible for that. The S.Ps' should be told that they shall be punished if anybody under them does any wrong. Last of all Chaudhri Sahib has referred to the fact that the incidence of taxation falls mainly upon the villagers. This has been so during the Mughal period. During the British regime also the rural population paid the larger portion of revenues. Now also they have to bear the burden of the taxes. I wish to submit that if our hon. Friends extend us a helping hand we can go forward very quickly with the Nangal and Bhakra projects upon which depends the prosperity of Haryana Prant. Most of our difficulties will vanish with the completion of these projects. We will forget the colonies of Layallpur, Montgomery and Sheikhupura in no time. But the most important thing is that we should try to strengthen the hands of those who wish to improve the administration. This can be done only by realizing our responsibility and not by unnecessary criticism.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I wish to state that the hon. Member has referred to the appointment of the Advocate General. Had he explained all the circumstances under which the appointment was made, no scope for misunderstanding could have arisen. But since he has not done so I wish to make the position clear. The manner in which the Advocate General was removed earlier was much resented by the hon. Members of this House. Nearly all the Members had considered the removal as improper. Anyhow, now the names for the appointment were sent by the High Court and the best man was appointed to the job. The certificate of the Chief Justice Late Diwan Ram Lall is on the file and I offer that a two or three man Committee may be appointed to inquire into the propriety of the appointment and I shall be prepared to pay the penalty that it may impose if my decision is proved to be wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) : Sir, the other day while speaking on the Address of his Excellency, address-

ing some of the faces that adorn the Treasury Benches, I said "I see faces which lack vision, which lack intelligence and which lack imagination". The hon. Chief Minister took strong exception to my remarks and he was much annoyed over them. At that time I could not make out whether he was rightly annoyed or it was from a narrow angle of vision that he took exception to those remarks. I have searched my heart again and am very sorry to say that I have to repeat those very words. Sir, not only these people lack intelligence, vision and imagination but they have been guilty of casting to the winds all the sacred trusts that have been placed in the hands of these people. As I said before, their betrayal of the masses, who entrusted them with the task of forming a Government, is without comparison and without a parallel. In other countries people tell truths, half-truths and lies but it is a parliamentary practice that when they come to the House of Commons or Parliaments of their respective countries they do not tell half-truths and lies, they speak truth and nothing but truth. Here I feel that it is not truth and half-truth but falsehood that has been mentioned in the budget speech of yesterday, in inglorious ways.

Minister for Labour : Sir, is the hon. Member using parliamentary words ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I do not know to which word the hon. Minister objects but I withdraw that word in deference to the wishes of the Chair.

Sir, I am reminded of the days of the last Czar in Russia. In his time, the history tells us, there was a man called Rasputan, who was responsible for the sufferings and troubles of the people of Russia. Whatever the Czar did, in fact Rasputan was responsible for it. Similarly in the Punjab these days it is not the Government officials who rule the State it is not the Ministers who rule here but it is an astrologer Sharma by name who rules the State. It is a pity that when an officer whether subordinate or higher, wants anything—an increment or leave—he has not to go to the hon. Minister in charge but to that individual, Mr. Sharma who wields so much influence. People have to approach this man for what they want to be done.

Interruption by Chaudhri Kartar Singh.

Mr. Speaker : I would expect from the hon. Members that they would be polite in what they say. The hon. Members are expected to remain within limits when referring to other hon. Members of the House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, the hon. Member who interrupted me has a limited mastery of English language and has never attended a University. I can only pity him.

Mr. Speaker : Any hon. Member can raise any objection.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, when I was interrupted I was saying that it is not the hon. Ministers who rule the State but there is an individual.....

Mr. Speaker : It does not concern the general discussion of the Budget.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It is a common story.

Mr. Speaker : I do not like these stories.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : These stories may be relevant.

Mr. Speaker : Most of these things are irrelevant.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, in this connection I am reminded of a ruling given by the late Chaudhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din when Pandit Munni Lal Kalia was speaking on a Bill that was against the Hindus as a community.

Mr. Speaker : You leave that ruling aside and proceed with your speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Pandit Muni Lal Kalia raised a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : Don't discuss the ruling or the point of order but proceed with your arguments.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, in deference to your wishes I will not discuss this point any more. I was submitting a little while ago that in the Budget speech of yesterday not only half-truths have been mentioned but we even find false statements. While talking about the local bodies the hon. Minister for Finance stated that the Government had given up the policy of nominating members to these bodies. But what do we find in practice? We find in the news papers that two people have been nominated to the Amritsar Municipal Committee. What I was driving at was that while in other countries of the world half-truths and lies might be told outside the legislatures but inside the legislatures nothing but truth is spoken. What do we find here? Exactly the opposite of it.

Something is stated as the policy of the Government on a particular question in the papers and on the same day during the course of Budget speech exactly the contrary is said. In my district two nominations have been made to the Gurdaspur District Board. One of the nominees has been in jail for seven years as a convict in a dacoity and the other gentleman was placed in No. 10 the very day his name was gazetted as a member of the Board. (*Laughter*) If the Government want it I can even name the person. As I consider myself to be a part of the Government, I share credit for their good acts and at the sametime I take discredit for its misdeeds as well. There are faces in the Cabinet for whom I have the greatest regard and therefore I will not use words which I might otherwise have been tempted to use. There are hon. Members whose honesty is above board. One of the hon. Members while supporting the Government said that there was absolutely no corruption, that the finances of the State were perfectly all right and so on. I am reminded of a story which was very common in jails. There used to be a practice in the jails that all the 24 hours, one of the persons on the jail staff would go round the outer wall and shout "Sab Achha". One night at about 10 of the clock when we were locked up in the jail ten of our friends who were transferred from Multan arrived there. They were not provided with any beddings nor were they given any food. We shared what we had with them but still 4 of them remained without any beddings and 5 without any food. We reported the matter to the man on duty and he shouted "Four without beddings; Five without any food; Baki Sab Achha". (*Laughter*) One morning three persons who were condemned prisoners were hanged and while their dead bodies were lying that man continued to shout "Sab Achha". What I want to impress upon the hon. Members is that when they say that there is no corruption, they should see and make sure and create conditions where there is no corruption. By simply saying that there is no corruption it cannot be rooted out just as by simply saying "Sab Achha", there could not be "Sab Achha". I have a great regard for some of the hon. Ministers who adorn the Government Benches. Unfortunately, however, it is an open story that the conduct of some of the hon. Ministers is not above board.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member cannot be permitted to say these things. If he has any specific charges, he can level them by moving a substantive motion. The hon. Member has not been relevant although I gave him some latitude. He should now wind up his speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It is our duty to mould our conduct in such a way that it should be above reproach and above board. In

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conclusion, Sir, I assure the hon. Ministers that whatever I have said is not out of malice but in the spirit of making constructive criticism and all in good faith.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : The hon. Chief Minister has in the first paragraph of the first page of the Budget Speech said :—

“ The Greatest amongst us left a message of peace and good will and which he practised even by laying down his life and we who survive him, and on whom devolve the responsibilities of guiding the State Government to-day have to stand firmly by his ideals.....”

It is crystal clear from this that he has laid much stress on the point that he and his colleagues of the Cabinet are the real followers of Mahatma Gandhi and that the Budget has been prepared on the very principles set by him. But while studying the Budget and also the Supplementary Demands, I was all the time reminded of those air-crafts which have been purchased by our poor Government in general and the Ministry which claims to be the real follower of Mahatma Gandhi, in particular. They purchased these aeroplanes for lakhs of rupees and have since then been spending thousands on them monthly simply with a view to maintain their dignity. They are under the impression that by keeping aeroplanes and by maintaining them they can maintain their dignity. In fact they have been very particular to keep up this show. When they were asked whether they were actually using these aeroplanes for travelling purposes it was said that they were using these on few occasions. Perhaps they were making these aimless flights on few occasions only as they cannot withstand the air-journey.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : This was not their main excuse. They were afraid lest they should be deprived of their travelling allowance.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : घर का भेदी लंका दास

ਘਰ ਕਾ ਭੇਦੀ ਲੰਕਾ ਦਾਸ

Sardar Bachan Singh : It is given in the Supplementary Estimates that.....

Mr. Speaker : Any matter which has been fixed for some other day cannot be anticipated now.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I wish to point out that this year a sum of Rs. 32,550 has been spent for the maintenance and servicing of aircrafts. No provision for this item exists in the original Budget. Lakhs of rupees have been wasted without any rhyme or reason. This benign Government would be spending Rs. 20,000 in connection with the Certificate of Air-worthiness. After wasting lakhs on these aircrafts it has decided to dispose them of. My hon. Friends can very well imagine the mentality of our Government. It will not be out of place to mention here that our Ministry which is working according to the ideals laid down by Mahatma Gandhi who also preached to earn livelihood by spinning cotton, has wasted lakhs of rupees on these aircrafts. Now it is proposed to spend Rs. 32,550 on their maintenance and also for fulfilling certain obligations. It appears that our Government in general and the hon. Chief Minister in particular have come under the influence of some astrologer who has advised them to take such a step. So much money has thus been wasted.

Now-a-days it is being said in every nook and corner of the State that our Government has made it a point to increase taxation on the poor people. An hon. Member while expressing the same view has maintained that it was not possible for the Government to impose any taxes on the rich. In this connection I wish to quote an instance. In 1948, Sugar Factory Control Bill was introduced in the House and referred to a Select Committee. I would like to quote a few lines from the report of this Committee :—

The Provincial Government may after consulting the Board by notification impose a cess not exceeding six pies a maund on the entry of sugarcane into a local area specified in such notification and that the factory owner shall contribute an equal amount by way of a cess and the total cess shall be used for the development of the area from which a cess is recovered.....

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of Order, Sir. Is it not a confidential document ?

Mr. Speaker : Any decision of this House cannot be attacked.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My submission is that the Government brought in a Bill on this principle.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member cannot attack it.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Can the hon. Member not cite examples whereby he can show the conduct of this Government ?

Mr. Speaker : If by doing so he is attacking this House, he cannot do so.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I was submitting that our Government is bent upon increasing taxation on the poor and the down-trodden. It is crystal clear from the above quoted lines that in spite of the considered view of the Select Committee to impose cess on both the cane growers and the factory owners, the latter were exempted from paying the cess and the whole burden of the cess was to fall upon the former who unfortunately belong to the poor class. In fact it is the intention of the Government to levy minimum taxes on the rich and the maximum taxes on the poor. This is how our Ministry which claims to work according to the principles laid down by the Father of the Nation, is serving the poor people of this State.

Further I wish to point out that if we study the figures in the Budget under the Head, Police, we will find that in 1948 a sum of Rs. 35 lakhs was spent on the national Volunteer Corps. When this demand of Rs. 35 lakhs was placed before the House, at that time Sardar Swaran Singh the then Home Minister felt proud of making such a proposal. In 1949 a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs was spent on it and now it is proposed to spend only Rs. 3 lakhs. It is clear from this that the National Volunteer Corps will soon be reduced to a skeleton both physically and financially. On the one hand it is said that the clouds of war are on the horizon and that there is every likelihood of an attack by the enemy, while on the other the amount which used to be made available for strengthening the National Volunteer Corps, has been reduced to a few lakhs and it seems to be a closed chapter now. What more can we expect from a Government which previously convinced us about the importance of National Volunteer Corps and which instead of making more and more money available to it in view of the present conditions, has reduced its expenditure.

Now about Education. A fairly good amount has been provided in the Budget for providing education to the masses. My hon. Friends know it full well that my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh had moved a Resolution in this House to the effect that primary education should be made compulsory in the State. When he moved this Resolution our Government declared in unequivocal terms that it was already its intention to make primary education compulsory in the State, and it went even to the extent of saying

that no time should be lost in supporting it unanimously. Our Education Minister Sardar Narotam Singh during his visit to Ambala remarked that he would bring about a revolution in the sphere of education. Asked as to how he would do this, he remarked that arrangements have been made for imparting basic education. Now on looking through the Budget, we find that a sum of rupees forty-two thousand has been provided for this purpose. On the other hand provision has been made for Parliamentary Secretaries, one Chief Parliamentary Secretary and three Private Parliamentary Secretaries in the Budget, even though for the last six months the Government has been carrying on its work without the help of a single Parliamentary Secretary and has not felt any difficulty in their absence. The burden of taxation on the rural population has been increased by enhancing the rate of 'abiana'. When we go back to our villages, people will certainly ask us what we have brought for them in return for Rs. (60) sixty lakhs that we have agreed to give to the Government. What other reply shall we give to them except that here is a sum of Rs. (42) forty-two thousand earmarked for your education. And to be more exact we shall have to tell them that this is to be spent on opening a few schools in villages, whose number exceeds (15) fifteen thousand. We wonder what kind of revolution does the Education Minister propose to bring about by his scheme of basic education with this sum of (42) forty-two thousand rupees? (*Laughter*). Now arises the question of medical aid and the improvement of means of communication in rural areas. Not a single penny has been provided in the Budget for opening hospitals in rural areas. The Finance Secretary has given a long list of schemes, totalling about forty, which have had to be given up in the year 1949-50 owing to financial stringency. And, lo! that is the end of all schemes of development—roads and buildings and everything that could improve the condition of rural areas! if this State of affairs continues, it will be no wonder if next year the Finance Secretary gives a list of abandoned schemes for want of funds. Now as to which 'guru' advised them about this stratagem of including these schemes in the Budget, and then at the end of the year coming forth with a declaration from the Finance Secretary that these schemes have been abandoned owing to financial stringency, passes my comprehension. Why were these schemes included in the last year's Budget, if only they were to be given up?

Now I come to the next point. This Assembly, only a few days back, passed a resolution strongly recommending to the Government the postponement of the scheme of nationalization of transport for three years. But now when we have looked into the Budget, we

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

find provision for managers, superintendents, clerks and the whole equipment for running bus services. It is also stated that the Government intends to take over Pathankot and Kalka-Simla routes, run omnibus services in Ludhiana and Ferozepur and extend the existing omnibus services in Amritsar and Jullundur. What is all this about, one fails to understand. What was the use of all those discussions on the nationalisation issue and the decision arrived at by this Assembly? I, for one, cannot understand these juggler's tricks, who can take out of his bag anything you ask him.

In his Budget speech, the hon. Chief Minister stated:—

“Rural evacuee houses available were 6,68,323. A large destruction of rural houses took place at the time of migration and it is estimated that the number of houses totally destroyed was 2,25,539, and partially destroyed 1,25,227.” Further on he stated: “We contemplate setting up model villages for rural re-housing.”

So the number of houses that will have to be rebuilt is about 2 lakhs and 25 thousand plus one lakh and 25 thousand, in order to provide houses to the rural population. In all, the Government will have to build at least 3 lakh new houses in rural areas. So far it has succeeded in building one model house at a cost of rupees 7 thousand. The hon. members can themselves form an idea as to how much time will it take the Government to provide houses to the rural population and no steps have been taken to stop the destruction of houses, which continues unabated. Now the total amount given as loans to the rural people during the current year is just Rs. 25 lakhs and calculating at the rate of Rs. 7 thousand for each house, it can well be imagined as to how many houses could have been built with the help of these loans in rural areas. Sir if you visit Ferozepur, Jullundur or any other district, you will come across the ruins of thousands of villages that have been destroyed. The hon. Chief Minister seems to think that rural rehabilitation will be complete as soon as the work of allotment of evacuee land is finished. I would say, Sir, that this is a vain hope. From where will the peasants who are allotted land, get the houses to live in? Has any provision been made to provide them housing accommodation? While referring to the rehabilitation of urban people, it was stated that 6,800 sites have been laid, where houses will be built for them. Already nearly 4,000 houses have been constructed in 11 township for the urban people and now it is proposed to spend Rs. 45 lakhs in laying drainage and water supply works in these townships, Rs. 12 lakhs in order to develop roads in the area of new sites, Rs. 15 lakhs for the develop-

ment of another 10,000 sites, and Rs. 7 lakhs on the electrification of these colonies. In all, a sum of about Rs. 80 lakhs has been earmarked for providing modern amenities to the urban population, including the development of 6,800 sites where the construction work has yet to begin, and despite the fact that for hundreds of houses in these townships, no customer is to be found. And so far as the rural areas are concerned, no money is to be found for opening schools, hospitals or construction of roads, in spite of fact that the rate of 'abiana' has been increased by 50 percent and this is to come from the pockets of the rural people who are already contributing most to the Government coffers. During the British regime, these very Congressmen used to hold out promises of lightening the burden of the peasants and of revising the principles of levying land revenue so as to base it on the principles of income tax. Where are those professions now ? It appears that those very people are now determined to add to the burden of the hard-pressed village folk.

What is the condition of the Punjab to-day, Punjab which was one of the most prosperous provinces before the partition ? We who used to produce 60% of the total cotton produce of India, are now producing only 3 percent. We who used to export wheat, are to-day facing a deficit even in this essential article of food. To-day it is on the lips of every body, that our economic condition is very bad.

6. P.M.

Sir, our Government is burdening the people with more and more taxes in our State. If you look to U.P. you will find, Sir, that its population in the year 1941 was 5 Crores and 77 lakh and it has prepared a budget of Rupees 92 crores while the population of our State according to the figures of the year 1941 is one crore and twenty one lakhs and its Budget is 16 crores of rupees. The incidence of tax in U.P. is Rs. 9/- per capita as compared to Rs. 13/- per capita in our State. When we are paying more tax as compared to other States, I fail to understand why the same facilities that are being extended to people in other States should not be afforded to us. Sir, if you look at the memorandum of the Budget for this year, you will find that the Government have provided 4 crores and 99 lakhs of rupees i.e. nearly about 5 crores of rupees for Civil Administration. Somebody asked me to express my opinion on the Budget and I replied that this is a Budget of highly placed officers and not of a common man. The Budget, as we see, does not contain anything other than the salaries of Government servants. In the United Punjab the expenditure on administration was not so heavy as we witness in our State at present. This State now comprises 13 districts out of which Simla is only a district in name. If we compare the heads of

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

departments of this State with the United Punjab, we shall find that in the Industries Department there used to be one Director of Industries and one Deputy Director of Industries in the United Punjab whereas there are one Director of Industries and four Deputy Directors of Industries here. Besides this, the appointment of three Financial Commissioners in our State is a clear proof of the fact that there is top-heavy expenditure on the administration in our State. It is the absence of any other expenditure except that of salaries of Government servants that we find a balanced Budget in our State. This balanced Budget cannot be regarded as of any consequence, as the Government could show more surplus if the salaries of Government servants which form a major portion of expenditure had been only shown eliminating other minor expenditure on various departments. We had not achieved independence merely so see Police raj in our State or unduly large number of officers being employed in our State. But we had wished that there would be satisfactory arrangements for imparting education in order to remove illiteracy and to provide well-equipped hospitals for the sick and infirm. Such arrangements are far from satisfactory in our State. We find that our Government have opened a dispensary for an average of 30,000 population in our State. Such arrangements do not leave much scope of bringing medical aid within the easy reach of villagers. But according to Birla Plan there would be one hospital for 500 people and more schools in villages which will be managed by Village Panchayats. Now the Government want to inaugurate this scheme throughout India. It is strange that the Government adopts the recommendations made in the Birla Plan though it professes that India will be governed in conformity with Gandhian ideals. Our Government has sponsored the Village Panchayat Bill and when it is passed it proposes to establish Panchayat Raj in our villages. They say that these Panchayats will be invested with executive and judicial powers and as soon as they begin to function, the work with regard to the management of schools and construction of roads etc., will be entrusted to them. But when I see the Budget, I find that the Government have ear-marked rupees 28 lakhs only for village panchayats in all districts comprising 85,000 villages. This would mean, in other words, rupee one for forty persons in a village. With this paltry sum the Government claim to usher in a new era of prosperity in villages. May I ask whether such a Panchayat Raj could be panacea for all evils in villages? Will the amount so ear-marked be sufficient for the constructive programme that the

Government intend to carry out through village Panchayats in villages? There can be no gainsaying the fact that the execution of all these welfare measures in villages requires adequate provision of funds and with this scale of expenditure there is not much to hope that village panchayats could become the provider of essential amenities in villages. It would be difficult for them to go forward in any direction with this limited finance that has been placed at their disposal. I think that this problem requires careful consideration if the Government really intend to carry out constructive programme in villages. The rural masses have brone many hardships and sufferings in the past. There has been continual strain on the patience of these people who have been fed on promises of good times to come. But their hopes are now fading out fast and their patience has now almost been exhausted. Let therefore, these Ministers, weigh the situation properly and address themselves seriously to work for the weal of these poor people. If they are unable to play their role successfully, they should quit their offices as the village masses cannot tolerate the unhelpful attitude of the Government for long. Nobody can relish the idea that the Ministry should be retained more as an ornament to the Government than for serving any useful purpose.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should wind up his speech.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, now I would refer to a notable work that the Government has done in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. It has inaugurated a novel scheme for the destruction of monkeys in the State. The Government has set apart about two lakhs of rupees for this purpose.

Sir, what I mean to bring out is the fact that this Government has no policy of its own. If there are instructions from above i.e. from the central Government for destroying the wild animals in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign orders are issued that wild animals should be killed. And when somebody who matters for example a man like Lala Hardev Sahai, objects to the killing of monkeys, the scheme is given up.

Some hon. Members : No mention of names please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am mentioning what I wave heard from the people with my own ears. They say that monkeys formed the Army of Hanuman who was a Commander-in-Chief of Ram and this Pandit who sits in the Gaddi being a scion of Rawana is bent on destroying them.

Mr. Seaker : The hon. Member means that there is no Ram Raj in the State.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, it is said that it is Rawan Raj and not Ram Raj. This Government can neither displease the Central Government nor their kith and kin. They appear to have forged a formula for pleasing both and it is that shooting squads should be disbanded and that licences should be granted to the people. I say that licences are there with the people already. What is the function that the Government will perform in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign ? The Government does not appear to have any definite policy in this behalf and for that matter about anything. When the protagonists of this Government go to the transport operators, they tell them that the nationalization scheme would be deferred for 3 years but here in this House details of huge expenditure for this work are placed before us. This Government can never adopt a definite policy and is ever trying to find a *via media*. Such an attitude may be illustrated by the Punjabi saying.

ਹਿੰਦੂ ਵੇਦਾਂ ਮਨਦੇ, ਮੁਸਲਮਾਨ ਕੁਰਾਨ,
ਚੁਹੜੇ ਕੁਛ ਨ ਮਨਦੇ, ਵਿਚ ਧਰਤੀ ਤੇ ਅਸਮਾਨ।

हिन्दू वेदों मनदे, मुसलमान कुरान,
चूड़ड़े कुछ न मनदे, बिच धर्ती ते असमान।

This means that the Government has faith neither in one ideology nor in the other and is hanging between the two.

Master Gurbanta Singh suggested the establishment of a Government by the sweepers. I welcome this suggestion and am perfectly at one with him.

Minister for Labour : The hon. Member will oppose that Government as well.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I can give a written bond that I shall not. Sir, to sum up my speech I say that the Budget before us is not a poor man's Budget. It appears as if a regular attempt has been made not to make any provision for the villages and the low paid Government servants. It is altogether strange that servants drawing a salary of over one hundred rupees are entitled to special pay, dearness allowance, hill allowance, temporary allowance, this allowance and that allowance but nothing is being given to the lower paid men like the Chaprasis, school masters and clerks who are in fact the backbone of the administration. There

is not a word of cheer for them in the Budget. This Budget condemns itself when it provides something like Rs. 3,500 P.M. for some and not even a square meal for others. In these circumstances I am in a position to say that this Government is not being run by disciples of Mahatma Gandhi. Had our Ministers followed the principles of the great Mahatma I would have congratulated them. But unfortunately I find a gulf dividing their professions from their practices. Their case is that of an elephant which has one set of teeth for display and another for use.

Master Gurbanta Singh : (Jullundur General Rural Reserve 1 Seat) (*Hindustani*) Sir, many of the points that I had a mind to place before the House have already been discussed by some of the hon. members. Only a few things have been left untouched and I shall deal with them. I say that the Budget that has been presented to the House contains no hope or promise for the low paid Government Servants. No attempt has been made to raise their salaries. The House is already aware that the vernacular teachers have given a notice to the Government that they would hold a demonstration in front of the Legislative Assembly in case their demands are not granted. (An hon. Member. That notice has been withdrawn.) But in my opinion the matter still stands unsettled.

Sir, we often accuse the low paid police sepoy for accepting bribes. But I ask does the Government pay them enough to meet their needs so that they may not resort to uncalled for practices. A sepoy is always required to put on a neat and clean uniform, he must get himself shaved and keep tidy as otherwise disciplinary action would be taken against him. All this requires money and the Government has not enhanced his salary. Therefore, this Budget is not of the poor but of the rich who are sometimes paid more than 100 times the poor officials.

I wish to bring to the notice of the House that ours is a shifty Government. It never sticks to one policy. About five or six months ago there was a notification issued by H. E. the Governor that the village artisans who earned Rs. 700 or less shall not be subject to a tax. This decision was not palatable to the big Zamindars because they thought that they might be asked to pay more as the poor people were being given exemption. They appear to have made representations and it is said that the Government is reconsidering the question of exemption from tax given to the artisans.

[Master Gurbanta Singh]

What I mean to say is that the Government does not fulfil its promises. It issues some notifications and makes some law but afterwards alter them. This brings the Government into disrepute.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has it not already gone into disrepute.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I fear lest it earns more of it. The Government has earned such a bad name that we who are responsible for having created it find it difficult to go to our villages and face the people there. Before my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha became a Member of this House, he used to wear Gandhi Cap. Since his election he has started wearing turban. When I asked him the cause of this change, he replied that he could not go to his village in Gandhi Cap, because in that case the people would regard him to be a black-marketeer.

The Government is doing great injustice to us. I wish to narrate the case of a Harijan clerk, who is employed in an office at Simla. A certain person, who is Brahman by caste, ill-treated him and told him not to visit his house, as he was an untouchable. The Harijan clerk filed a suit against that person through the Advisory Committee constituted by the Government, but it has not been decided so far. Another thing which I wish to point out is that we have requested the Government several times that as our country has become independent, the stigma of our being non-agriculturists should now be removed.

Mr. Speaker : There is a resolution on this subject which would be coming before the House.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I was submitting, that even after the attainment of independence the disability which was imposed on us by the foreign rulers still subsists. We are not so rich that we would purchase large areas of land. The only thing which we desire is that we should be able to live respectably in the villages. Though our mainstay is the tilling of soil, so long as the existing law is there we can command no respect in our villages. I am sorry that in the party meeting, I was made to withdraw the Resolution, which I had given notice of.

Then, Sir, in last June, certain percentage of services in Government Offices was reserved for the Harijans. I am sorry that the Government is not acting on its decision. Harijans are not being given their due share in the services.

In the matter of rehabilitation of displaced persons, those who were land-lords in Pakistan have been allotted land, others have been given houses and shops, but so far as we are concerned, those of us who settled in the villages after partition are being dispossessed of the lands which were originally given to us because no provision has been made for land-less tenants in the scheme of quasi-permanent allotment of land. We are not even being given loans by the Government. In the villages we have been burdened with very heavy taxes. House-tax profession-tax, marriage-tax and sales-tax are only a few of these. While on the one hand taxes on the villagers are so heavy they are being provided no amenities. In my village there are four schools at present but there is a proposal to close these. There are no hospitals or good roads in the rural areas. These amenities are available only in the cities. Some of my hon. Friends who are representatives of the rural people never go to the villages except when they have to obtain their votes. Some of them who used to live in the villages, have now shifted to cities. Nobody appears to care for these backward people.

Then, Sir, the Government constituted Harijan Welfare Advisory Committees. Presidents of the Tehsil Congress Committees, members of the Municipal Committees and some other persons are appointed as members of these Committees. Such a Committee was formed in Jullundur also. These Committees are not intended for the benefit of Harijans. Their only object is to do propaganda on behalf of the Ministers.

Mr. Speaker : No motive should be attributed.

Master Gurbanta Singh : When the work of a Committee is not approved by the Government, it is dissolved and a new Committee is constituted. I was also member of such a Committee in Jullundur. I protested to the Government against communalism prevalent there and also against its being used for doing propaganda. The same is the case with Panchayat Officers. They are used for carrying on propaganda in favour of some Ministers and other Congressmen. I know the case of my own Tehsil. The Panchayat Officer went there and told the people that if they did not act in a particular manner, he would dissolve the Panchayat. The Jats turned him out from there. It is highly objectionable that the Government should use its officials for doing propaganda on its behalf. The Government which does such things can not last long. The evil of untouchability exists to such an extent that it can not be removed by passing a few laws.

[Master Gurbanta Singh]

Only yesterday I received a letter from a Harijan who was appointed Naib-Tehsildar by the Government of the United Punjab. He has written me that his colleagues look down upon him as a member of a lower class and treat him with contempt. If the treatment meted out to Harijans is brought to the notice of the Government, we are told that this feeling can be removed only by co-operation. I shall again request the Government to arrange for redress of wrongs done to us and to take steps to get those who treat us ill, arrested under law. A Harijan Qanungo went to Kangra for receiving training. He could not get food there for ten days and had to leave that place without obtaining leave.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P.M. on wednesday, 15th March 1950.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

15th March, 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Chief Minister: (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava); Sir, I request that the question hour be dispensed with to-day so that the House may have an hour more for the general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the sense of the House that the question hour be dispensed with?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The question hour was accordingly dispensed with.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Speaker: The Assembly will now resume general discussion of the Budget.

Master Gurbanta Singh : (Jullundur, General, Rural,) (Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*):- Sir, yesterday, I was laying stress on the fact that our Government like the garrulous sister in the Punjabi proverb

(ਗਲਾਂ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਮੈਂ ਚੰਗੀ ਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਮੇਰੀ ਬਹਿਨ)

(ਗਲਾਂ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਮੈਂ ਚੰਗੀ ਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਮੇਰੀ ਬਹਿਨ)

is good at talking but bad at translating its words into action. There are so many instances, in which its promises remain unfulfilled. It was on the 17th March, 1948, that the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad had declared the intention of the Government to give one post of Under Secretary to a Harijan. More than 2 years have since elapsed but this promise has not been honoured by its fulfilment, despite the fact that there are many Harijan candidates for this post. On the 14th of February last, Shri Prithvi Singh Azad stated in the course of a speech at Jullundur that the percentage fixed for backward classes in services cannot be allowed to be applied to the police service, because persons of requisite physical strength were not to

(Master Gurbanta Singh)

be found among them. I can assure the Government that this is not a fact. There are hundreds of youngmen of good physique in our community, who are anxious to serve in the Police Department and are quite fit for it, and I would, therefore, urge the Government that posts in the Police Department should be reserved for them according to the percentage that has been decided upon. It is a pity that the hon. Minister who belongs to our community should say such things, and if he says so, how will the other officers be willing to appoint any Harijan and give him his due share?

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is that the Harijan Welfare Fund is not being properly utilized. I do not doubt the intention of the Government. What I want to stress is that its instructions in the matter are not properly carried out by its officials. Circulars are issued but the educational authorities and the heads of schools and Colleges do not care a hang for them. The Harijan students have not been granted any fee concessions or any other relief. The school and college authorities probably grudge the advancement of this community, which they had hoped would continue serving them like slaves for ever. After allowing fee concessions to some Harijan students, they withdrew these concessions after some time on the ground that they have not fared well in quarterly or half-yearly examinations. I submit, Sir, that this results in a great hardship for the poor people, as they are left with no other alternative but to stop the education of their children. This is just an excuse to deny the Harijan children the opportunity to educate themselves. So I would request the Government to issue instructions to the school and college authorities to withdraw concessions only in those cases where students get plucked in the annual examinations.

Now about the scholarships. It is the policy of the Government to grant scholarships to Harijan students right from the 9th class to the post-graduate (M. A.) stage. But I have to point out with regret that for the last two years and in some cases even for a longer time, payment of scholarships has not been made to them and they are in great trouble.

Now I want to draw the attention of the Government to another matter in which the Harijans are badly in need of its help. I am referring to those cottage industries which are exclusively in the hands of Harijans. The Government should have sanctioned some money for the encouragement of these industries. No help has been rendered to the Harijan refugees. Unlike the other refugees, they have not been allotted land or shops. Nothing has been done to rehabilitate them. They have not been given any loans or advances for their rehabilitation. No facilities of any kind have been given to them. Our community is in a pitiable condition. Some provision

must be made to rehabilitate them. Some money must be set apart for this purpose.

People of my community have another grievance, too. I will resume my seat after making a mention of it. The landowners who give land to the Harijans for cultivation get their own names entered in the 'girdawari' register and get the 'khasra' issued in their own names, so that they may be in a position to eject the Harijan tenants easily at the time of harvesting i.e. when the crop is ready. This makes the position of Harijan tenants most insecure and leaves them at the mercy of the landlords. The position of the Harijan tenants can only become better, if the Government issues instructions that the 'khasra' be issued in their names; otherwise they will continue to be ejected from land from year to year.

(At this stage Master Gurbanta Singh resumed his seat and Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt rose to speak).

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** I have got a long list of 27 members who want to speak to-day. I have counted the minutes at our disposal. We have 210 minutes in all. In this way, I will not be able to give more than eight or nine minutes to each hon. Member but I would ask the hon. Members to be brief as far as possible. In this case, I think, twelve minutes would be reasonable.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing North Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*), Sir, first of all I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Chief Minister on presenting the Budget for the year 1950-51. After this formality, I would like to express my views only about the salient features of this Budget, instead of trying to analyse it in details, for the time at my disposal is very short. At the very outset, I must express my sense of regret at the conspicuous failure of the Punjab Government over a matter of vital importance. Sir, it is well-known to you that some years back, a great injustice was done to this Province. Sir, I am referring to the Neimyer Award and the share of income-tax allocated to this Province out of the divisible pool under this Award. At that time this Province had very strongly raised its voice of protest against the injustice done to it. Some time back, this question of fixation of the share of the Provinces in the 'divisible pool' of income-tax came for revision before the Government of India and Sir Chintamani Deshmukh, Ex-Governor of the Reserve Bank of India was entrusted with the task of going through this matter again, and he has given his award. According to this award, the share of this province has been increased from 5 to 5.5 per cent, which means an increase of only 1/2 per cent. In spite of the fact that at the Finance Ministers' Conference held at Delhi in which every Province had put forth its claims for a higher share,

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we had strongly contended that the Provinces whose economy had been shattered as a result of the partition should be given preferential treatment in the matter. We were assured by Dr. John Mathai that the partitioned Provinces would be given special consideration in this matter. But now that the award has been announced, we find that no special consideration has been given to the circumstances of the Punjab. On behalf of the people of this State, I voice my feelings of protest and strong disapproval at the share that has been allotted to the Punjab under the Deshmukh Award. This matter is to be reviewed again after some time by a Committee to be appointed by the Government of India. Though the Government has not indicated in the Budget as to what it intends to do in the matter, I would urge that no effort should be spared to represent adequately the case of this State before this Committee. This House should record its protest against the share that has been allotted to our State.

Sir, in view of the present-day economy of the Punjab, I do not welcome the surplus Budget of the State. I must protest against this surplus Budget as I think it is a very important point involving a principle of public finance. I no doubt agree that an attempt has been made to balance the Budget under the instructions of the Government of India in order to create confidence in the minds of the people. The economy of our State has been completely shattered and we have not fully recovered from the catastrophic effects of partition. Our State being the less developed, there is an urgent need for financing productive fields of industry and agriculture to increase the well-being and prosperity of the people. Under these circumstances, we should be realistic and honest to tell the people that our State being poor we cannot undertake a hundred things that people want us to undertake with our slender resources. We should have the boldness to confess that the State's economic condition is pretty bad instead of following expedient politics and creating irresponsible hopes in the minds of the people. With the present economic conditions, a surplus budget was out of question. The surplus Budget would indicate that the conditions in the State are all right and that its present financial position is quite sound though in reality it is not. We can expect that the finances would show an improvement on the completion of Bhakra and Nangal Projects. But I really fail to understand the significance of preparing a surplus Budget when there is an urgent need of spending more money on economic improvement of our State. I find that expenditure on the beneficent departments has been much curtailed. In the field of industrial and agricultural production, their output and level of production is still far below. With this background of a none-too-happy economic situation, I could not expect the Government to present a balanced or surplus

Budget. The beneficent departments have been kept starved but on the other hand the surplus Budget is indicative of the fact that the provincial finance is on a sound footing. I would, therefore, tell the hon. Chief Minister that showing of a surplus Budget is the method of economists of the old school of thought and that a Budget in any particular year must be in line with the economic background of the State. I, therefore, do not welcome the idea of balancing the Budget at the cost of over-all development of the State. As this Budget relates to the new year, I would suggest that it should be reconsidered by a Committee of all heads of departments which should be constituted to do this work. If the Budget is allowed to remain as it is, I have no hesitation in saying that our State will not be able to make any progress as it is obvious that the Government would not be able to go forward in any direction without funds. I have gone through the Budget and find that there is a disproportionate allocation of funds for the various departments. Whereas we notice perceptible expansion in the educational Budget, we find that Government has failed to provide quotas of necessary expenditure for other beneficent departments. I think forty-six percent of the total provision made for beneficent departments is for Education. It shows clearly that the Government has shown step-motherly treatment towards these departments by effecting substantial reduction in their budget estimates. The Government should have ear-marked adequate funds for Agriculture Department. The most urgent problem of the State at present is to increase agricultural production on account of food deficit. The well-being of the State and the prosperity of the common man depends upon the increased production of food-grains. Similar is the case with Industries Department which has also received scant attention of the Government. Some of my hon. Friends have remarked that a deficit Budget relates to the time when I happened to hold the office of Finance Minister and if the industries have not made the desired progress the responsibility lay upon me. In reply to this, I have to be very careful as I cannot divulge Cabinet secrets. But I would only say that many schemes were ready at the time when the Budget estimates for that year had been prepared and so the provision could not be made at the time for the execution of such schemes. Moreover, the main difficulty was that the programme of putting into execution could not be accelerated as my hands were tied. Our first step, therefore, should be to remove the sense of frustration that exists in the masses to-day and to remove their colossal poverty. Further, we should remove disproportion in the allocation of funds to various departments. In passing, I may remark that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee that was constituted more than a year ago has not yet submitted its report. This is most regrettable, rather condemnable. Now it has been stated that a new Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been formed. This is na

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indefensible act of the Government. I fail to understand why the Government has not waited for the recommendations of the committee which has now almost finished its task and is on the point of submitting its report. The announcement of the formation of this committee was made by the hon. Chief Minister in the House and the Finance Minister was appointed as its Chairman. I do not know what were the fundamental defects in this committee or on what ground this committee has lost the confidence of the Government. Anyhow, I would not like that the Government should play with such important matters. I do not find any example of such practice in the history of the world. This is a novel case of its kind that a committee which worked for over a year and incurred heavy expenses of the Government should be replaced by a new committee. I would call it a sign of weakness of the Government. If the state of affairs continues like this, I am afraid the Government might come to an end to-day or tomorrow.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Government is full of life today ; no one can say of tomorrow, (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should wind up his speech. He has already taken 12 minutes.

Chaudhri Kirshna Gopal Dutt: Sir, I do not want any concession in time but would accept the time limit that has been fixed by you. I would only say that the Government should give serious thought to the points that I have placed before the House. In fact, in the Budget speech, the hon. Chief Minister has laid stress on political matters and the financial aspect has been completely overlooked. I admit that the financial position of the Province has somewhat improved but it is a case of bad budgeting as the nation-building departments have been kept starving. The fact is that a saving of 4 lakhs has only been shown to make it a surplus Budget. This is not the need of the hour. The prime need of the State is a deficit Budget and not a surplus Budget.

Sardar Kartar Singh : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*); Sir, great labour appears to have been put in in the balancing of the Budget and there is every hope that our State will be able to stand on its own feet very soon. It was at one time thought that it would be possible to balance the Budget after completion of the Bhakra Dam But now it seems that we shall be able to do so properly, immediately after the Nangal Project has been completed and that we shall become sufficiently prosperous. I agree that this Budget does not provide

adequate funds for the nation building activities. This provision should have been at least one and a half times or twice as large as it is. But unfortunately that could not be as that would have involved imposition of more taxes and reduction of expenditure on other departments. Both of these remedies are unpleasant as well as difficult. The House knows that schemes involving new taxation are never welcome and the authors thereof become unpopular. But in spite of this fact, I make bold to suggest a few taxes in order to make good the loss which we shall have to face if no increase is to be effected in abiana. These taxes will make up the loss and shall help us in expanding our beneficent departments.

Firstly, I think that the rate per unit of electricity supplied by the private electric companies should be increased. For ordinary consumption, the companies supply energy at the rate of 6 to 8 annas per unit and a rebate of 25% is given to those who pay the charges on a fixed date. There appears to be no harm if this rate is enhanced. Similarly, if one pice per unit is added to the rate of electricity supplied to the states and the industries we can raise a sum of about rupees ten lakhs. Of course, when this increase is doubled and it is not unreasonable to do so we can get a sum of about rupees twenty lakhs.

My second suggestion is that more should be charged from the owners of the motor cars by way of road tax. The owners of motor cars are invariably rich men and are in a position to pay. Therefore the present tax of Rs. 95 per annum can safely be raised to Rs. 150 or Rs. 200. Along with this I may say, though it may be unpleasant in some quarters, that when Government has agreed to defer the nationalization of transport the lorry-owners should also be asked to pay higher tax.

One thing which is a source of a very bad habit for many people should be heavily taxed. It is tobacco. Such a step will not only enrich the coffers of our State but will also bring health to its citizens. Tobacco is not a necessity. It is certainly a luxury and if lakhs of Sikhs can live without it there is no reason why others can't do the same.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : But it is a central subject.

Sardar Kartar Singh : If that is so, the Government of India should be asked to give us more from the revenue from tabacco. Sir, jagirs are a relic of the past regime and may in some cases be taken back by the Government. Of course jagirs granted for religious and charitable purposes or for personal bravery should continue but the jagirs which are in the hands of such people who are rendering no useful service to the State can be taken over after providing for the holders in case they are not able to earn their livelihood. This step will also add to our revenues. We find that a regular

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struggle is going on between the landlords and the tenants and there are some reasons for it. Mostly, this fire is being fanned by the political parties and the urbanites who wish to gain political power. May be, desire on the part of tenants to be equal with the landlords has also contributed to it. But the fact cannot be denied that a solution will have to be found. I suggest that Zamindars owning lands beyond a certain limit may be subjected to a surcharge and the money so realized spent through a liaison agency for the purposes of the State and purchase of land for tenants in U. P., Madhya Bharat and Pepsu. We should also try to solve our problems relating to consolidation of holdings, agriculture, co-operation and 'chos' etc. I think all this work should not be done through a paid agency. A good deal of saving can be effected if mass enthusiasm is created and part of this work is got done through honorary agencies. So much about curtailing expenditure and raising more revenue. Now I shall deal with some complaints.

There are certain complaints to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. Many things have been said in the House about the Government officers. I have noticed that whenever they are condemned or praised, it is done to the extreme. I wish to point out that still there is a tendency of working slowly among the officers. Ludhiana District Board passed a Resolution more than eight months back in which they recommended the appointment of a non-official chairman. The Resolution has not reached the Minister concerned in this long period of eight months. There is a general tendency among the Government officers of not sending such things to the proper authorities. I hope that the request made by Ludhiana District Board will be conceded but the cause of not sending the Resolution to the Minister concerned for such a long period should be enquired into and Government officers should be made to realise that such delays would not be tolerated in future.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this that at the end of last war certain percentage in the Services was reserved for ex-servicemen. These people have not been appointed on the posts reserved for them. During war days, these posts had to be filled by persons without any military service but there is no reason why ex-servicemen should not be appointed on these after the termination of war. When the Government is asked to take necessary steps in this direction they say that those who are working on these posts have been serving there for a long period and should not, therefore, be removed. I wish to submit, Sir, that unless ex-servicemen are appointed to the posts reserved for them, it would cause them great disappointment. The Punjab has always been

regarded as the sword-arm of India and it is, therefore, essential that the ex-soldiers should not feel discouraged.

The last thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this that there are certain Scheduled castes among the Sikhs and others who are desirous of being declared agriculturists. The hon. Chief Minister can concede this request with a stroke of the pen and I request him to grant their request and remove their other difficulties.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women Urban) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, while speaking on the Budget, I shall criticise it and offer suggestions in the same way as a doctor treats a sick member of his family. In such a case, the doctor prescribes medicines or performs operation with a view to cure the patient. I shall speak on the Budget in the same manner. There was very short time for going through this voluminous Budget and I shall make my observations on it in the light of the study that I could make in this short period. I hope that the hon. Speaker will give me some concession in the matter of time.

✓ **Mr. Speaker**: No concession should be expected.

Shrimati Sita Devi: When this Budget was presented, I entertained high hopes. Firstly, it was the first Budget after the setting up of Indian Democratic Republic. After the last Budget, the Government constituted a Resources and Retrenchment Committee of which I was also a member. I hoped that the Government would effect a great deal of reduction in its expenditure. On going through the Budget I find that it has not been done. I thought that when I would go down to the plains and people would enquire as to what the Government had done for the masses, I would have to tell them that our Government believed in the saying :—

ਬਡੇਯਾਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮੱਥੇ ਪਰਨਾਲਾ ਉਥੇ ਦਾ ਉਥੇ
ਵਡਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮੱਥੇ ਪਰਨਾਲਾ ਉਥੇ ਦਾ ਉਥੇ

In the case of this House it meant

ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮੱਥੇ ਗੱਲ ਉਥੇ ਦੀ ਉਥੇ
ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮੱਥੇ ਗੱਲ ਉਥੇ ਦੀ ਉਥੇ

The Government had great respect for the suggestions made by the hon. Members of this House but did not act on them. In order to have a Budget of proper type the number of Government servants should have been reduced and their salaries also reduced. There are certain departments, about which we are told that we cannot touch them as there are definite instructions of the Central Government with regard to them. In my opinion, if our Government addressed the Central Government on this subject, they might

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agree to our suggestion. Then, Sir, we cannot interfere with Governor's expenditure and that incurred on hon. Speaker's office. In these circumstances, it was only the poor Ministers who could reduce their salaries. I am glad to note that they have voluntarily surrendered a part of these and I congratulate them on this decision.

I find, Sir, that this Budget is meant for the benefit of high-paid Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners only. With due apology, I wish to submit that even after the establishment of Democratic Republic, our Services do not realise that there is need of reduction in their salaries in this poor country. When the British rulers fixed these high salaries, they intended to benefit a few Englishmen and some of their own favourites. Even in the changed conditions, they think that two thousand or three thousand rupees a month is a low salary for them. Sometime back, when I was talking to the wife of a big officer in Jullundur, she complained that great hardship had been caused to her family by the reduction of three hundred rupees in her husband's salary.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the question of food. In rationed towns, the public is getting wheat at the rate of about seventeen rupees per maund. We have made every attempt to bring down this rate but this has not been possible on account of the heavy expenditure incurred on Food Department. If you look at page 160 of the Budget, you will find, Sir, that a huge amount has been provided for the Director, Deputy Directors and a large number of other officers. There has been no reduction of expenditure on them as compared with last year. A sum of Rs. 542,290 was spent on them in 1949-50. Another sum of Rs. 30,190 has been spent on the establishment of Director, Food Purchase, Provincial Reserve. All this heavy expenditure is incurred on Food Department of the Government. I would like to submit, that this expenditure on Food Purchase Department is excessive. If the strength of this large staff which includes Directors, Deputy Directors, Superintendents and what not, is reduced along with a reduction in their salaries, the poor people such as low paid staff and peons can certainly get food at a lower price. At present they have to pay Rs. 17 per maund for the food grains that they get. I wonder how these poor people can make their both ends meet when the hon. Ministers getting big salaries and drawing heavy travelling allowances are themselves complaining about economic difficulties. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to page 16 of the Budget Speech of the hon. Chief Minister where it is said :-

In view of the overall deficit of food grains full rationing was introduced in 20 major towns, controlled distribution in 7 other towns and for the rest the Deficit Areas Food Supply Scheme was put in operation. These rationing systems have, on the whole, worked successfully. The measures to prevent the smuggling of food grains, cloth and other Commodities from the Punjab were a necessary corollary of Controls.

I want to know one thing from the Government. It is in regard to the management of the control of sugar. Sugar is a controlled commodity at this time. But in the past days, it has been sold at Rs. 2 to 3 per seer. May I know if the Government prosecuted even a single black marketer in this case and punished him with imprisonment? These black marketers made crores of rupees out of this confusion. Only the other day, there was an incident of poisoning by mustard oil here at Simla, due to which a number of people fell ill and some of them even died. I learn that the owners of the company who were responsible for the sale of that adulterated oil, have already spent Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs to get the matter hushed up. It is said that the bottle containing the sample of that oil broke on its way to Kasauli. Later on the oil that was sent for examination must naturally have been pure. The people responsible for the deaths of people in this affair should have been punished and even hanged.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The matter is *sub judice*. The hon. Lady Member should not discuss it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Next, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the amount of Rs. one lakh provided for the travelling allowance for the hon. Ministers. This provision cannot really be understood in view of the fact that there are so many cars at the disposal of the Government, carrying numbers, like Punjab Government Number 1, Punjab Government Number 2 etc. Besides this, Rs. 48 thousand have been set aside for the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries. Our experience of three years has shown us that these offices are useless. If at all they are necessary, the Government should appoint only two Parliamentary Secretaries who should be paid properly and maximum work should be had out of them.

Again, a sum of Rs. 1 crore and 80 lakhs has been set aside for the implementation of the Grow More Food scheme. It is said that big steps are being taken to produce more food. But we see that the Government has decided to locate its capital near Chandigarh. The land of this site is very fertile and yields per acre 40 maunds of rice, 90 maunds of Gur and 32 maunds of wheat. Even the population here is 611 per square mile. On the other hand, the land of the original site is less fertile and the population also is not so dense. But who would touch the big land-lords. That is difficult.

Sardar Swaran Singh : (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I will

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not take long over the discussion on the various items in the Budget because after carefully looking into the different heads of revenue and expenditure the only comment which one can irresistibly make is that it is an ordinary and a routine Budget devoid of any long range policy and devoid of any planning for grappling the difficult and complicated problems which face the State of Punjab. In the short time at my disposal, I want to take this opportunity of saying something general on the administrative set up and the manner in which we should tackle the problems that confront us today. So far as the administrative set up is concerned, the only expression that I can find for the whole setup which obtains to-day is that it is devoid of imagination and it is devoid of any force and speed. There is so much slackness from top to bottom that it is difficult to say as to which part of the administration has excelled in the speed of downward plane in which we find the whole structure rolling down.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: You are a part and parcel of that machinery.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: A discarded part. (*Laughter*)

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, I was and I cannot escape the responsibility but although Mr. Mehta himself was a part of this machinery for 5 or 6 months, and in his time if anything happened it happened for the worse. (*Laughter.*)

I was saying Sir, that unfortunately the whole system has become so rotten that some radical change is necessary in order to improve it or at least to put it on such a footing that we can expect some improvement. There is growing criticism of the services and of the administrative set up and of all of us and we as the representatives of the people cannot escape the responsibility. If the administrative machine is criticised, if services are criticised and if the Ministers are criticised, we are also susceptible to such criticism and I have no hesitation in admitting that that criticism is not completely unjustified. Under such circumstances, it is no use considering the dark side of the picture only and we must apply our minds and work out a solution for improving the state of affairs as it exists to-day. Sir, one thing which I felt during the course of one year when I had greater opportunity of mixing with the people was that by continuously sitting here in Simla and by being too much engrossed in the file work, we had lost touch with the people. I am pretty certain although they won't admit, that on account of that loss of touch with the masses, they have lost their hands on the pulse of the people and as such they are prone to ignore what is the feeling of the people about them.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: You are wiser after the event?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, and that is why I am warning the Government to be aware of the writing on the wall. Individuals might flourish but the State will suffer and that is worse. My submission is, Sir, that it is the lack of the Government machinery's adaptability and it is the lack of touch with the people which is responsible for creating a rift. The Ministers have not been able to satisfy the people; people are critical of the Ministry, they are critical of the services and services in turn are critical of the people, with the inevitable result that the gulf is widening and unfortunately no serious effort is being made to bridge that gulf. I want to sound a note of a very strong warning on that score. The silent decisions which the people of any country take are much more dangerous than their vocal criticisms or their vocal expression of opinions and I warn the Government that the silent decisions that the people of the Punjab have today taken that the administrative machinery has failed to tackle the problems that face the country today is the greatest danger. It is not the speeches on the floor of the House, it is not the speeches that are made on the platform nor the critical writings by some enlightened newspaper editors but the silent decision of the people for which very heavy price will have to be paid, that matters. At the moment the people are feeling a great void. Frankly speaking there is no organisation except the Congress which can tackle the problems that confront the country today. If faith in the Government is shaken, if faith in the Congress is shaken, if faith in our ability to tackle the problems that confront the country is shaken, then the danger is there and such a danger which might lead to consequences which none of us can foresee. Therefore unless the administrative machinery from top to bottom is put in gear and proper adjustments are made to ensure that that void disappears it augurs ill for the future of our State. How can it be done? It is not a very simple problem because we have got limited resources; we have got limited finances. The only way in which way such a gigantic problem can be tackled is by the method of long range planning in all fields of our activities. That is the crying need of the day. The centre has already shown us some light. The Central Government has constituted a Planning Commission and we have to co-ordinate our activities with all-India plans which might be evolved by the Commission for the progress of the country. That planning is to be made in all spheres of activities and not in any haphazard manner. It is of prime importance that planning should be on long range basis and all our activities should be co-ordinated in an all-India picture. Geographically we are placed in such a way that we are a border State. We have also to tackle the huge problem of 45 lakhs of displaced and uprooted persons. A favour here and a gesture there which the Ministers make and by doing which they think they are pleasing the people will not do. My own experience is that even those individuals whom one favours are not pleased. We have 45

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to 50 lakhs of uprooted persons who are looking at us. With the scanty financial resources at our disposal we have to see how we can develop our plans, how we can improve our electric supplies, how we can increase our water resources, and the most important of all these things, how we can give good Government to the people.

As I have already said, it is only by long range planning that we can tackle our problems with some measure of success. What is now going on? Everybody is going in for digging tube-wells; every body is asking for tractors for this instrument and for that instrument but, I am pretty certain that all this is huge waste and dead loss like the large number of licences for trucks which Sardar Partap Singh issued. (*Interruption*) All these tube-wells, water channels, transmission lines will require alterations when consolidation takes place and the whole face of rural side and the cities will have to be changed as a result of development. Unless we start long range planning, all the expenditure that is spent on such things is dead loss. We will have to spend crores of rupees on drainage, on electricity, on communications, on utilization of power and on utilization of water resources. All these things are the crying need of the day and to be able to undertake all this stupendous task we have to start with planning. But, unfortunately for all of us, the Budget is so routine and dull that it does not show us light for doing any of these things. (*Loud applause*)

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: (Ambala Division Landholders) : Sir, after going through the speech of the hon. Chief Minister and the three big volumes, I have come to one conclusion, that the Budget is, as Sardar Swaran Singh has ably put it, a routine Budget. The pains which the Chief Minister took in describing all the activities of the various Departments of the Government was nothing short of wood in the trees. What was needed at this time when we are returning to a bit of normal life after the partition, was an indication of a clear cut economic policy of the Government. But, Sir, that is a thing which is prominently missing from the Budget speech. Most of the people are led away by the mere fact that the Budget has been shown as a surplus Budget. The criticism that has come forth is either that it is a case of bad budgeting or that the services are not good. The reason for all this unsatisfactory state of affairs is not far to seek. The reason is that those who came to power just after Independence had given some promises to the people—promises for economic planning, promises for a better-standard of living and when they came to power people reacted by asking for the fulfilment of those promises. Unfortunately, the people did not realise that for the fulfilment of those promises a responsibility devolved on the people themselves for harder and greater sacrifices to achieve the goal of greater production. But, Sir, I cannot

blame the people for all this because they were never honestly and frankly told about all that was expected of them. Their new enthusiasm was not properly harnessed by the Government but in order to keep up their popular character the leaders said, "Yes, we are immediately going to fulfil our promises." They in short promised a speedy change of social and economic structure and immediate rehabilitation. That was not possible. It was not possible because just before Independence this State like the rest of the country was suffering from the war time economic influence of inflation and unaccompanied by any appreciable rise in production it was not possible for the Government under these circumstances to put the people on normal footing, because the State had not arrived on peace-time economy. The difficulty further developed when the Government continued failing from one promise to another and the people on their part got one disappointment after another. This created a big gulf between the Government and the people and the situation was exploited by sectional interests and political groups. What did these sectional interests and political groups teach the people? They merely said that better standard of living meant lesser work, more wages and lesser production. Thus arose another section which came out with the cry that taxation on the people should not be above the level of taxation of British period. This confusing doctrine gave rise not only to the Communist and Communalistic doctrine but it gave a fillip to the revival of the old and reactionary Unionist doctrine.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: You call the Unionists reactionary. That party was the most progressive.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: I very much appreciate the courage of conviction and the bold stand taken up by Chaudhri Sahib, but my grouse is against those Khadi camouflaged Unionists who profess allegiance to the Congress but have got the same enthusiasm for Unionism in themselves.

An Hon. Member: They will soon come out in their true colours.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: The sooner they go, the better it would be for the Congress. You well know, Sir, how this Unionism has once again come into the field. They have once again raised the same old bogey of ruralites *versus* urbanites. This, Sir, is the most injurious thing that can happen against the interests of the State because both of them are necessary members of the State economy. Those who are working to separate these two are really doing a great disservice to the State and country. To illustrate the working of the camouflaged Unionists I shall place a few examples before you.

You know, Sir, a controversy about the nationalization of road transport is going on. My hon. Friend across the floor said that so and so was involved in

(Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish)

it. I do not want to mention names. If he wants to include me in that I have no objection. A great hue and cry has been raised about the nationalization of road transport. I ask, why? They have been saying that rural interests would be adversely affected if road transport was nationalized. How are rural interests to be affected when I see that out of 90 concerns which operate, 81 concerns are joint stock companies and the remaining 9 are worked by co-operative societies? So far as the actual worker is concerned, I can assure that he will have a better deal if the transport was nationalized. Now he is illpaid and overworked. His condition is sure to improve when the transport is nationalized. The real reason why all this has been done is that they may be able to tell the people in the country-side that they have done good to them by thwarting the decisions of the Government and by doing this they want to gain a certain amount of advantage over others during the elections. A glaring example of the pressure tactics of this group can be seen in their opposition to the levy of cess on sugar cane.

Sardar Swraan Singh: The hon. Member cannot discuss this point because in that case he would be criticizing the decision of the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** Yes. A decision of the House cannot be attacked.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: All right, Sir. I prefer to remain in silence in deference to the wishes of the rural majority. But it cannot be denied that the State should be economically developed and naturally, to achieve that object money is to be found and for that people are to be taxed. There are no other resources in the State; therefore, people are to be taxed and they should be taxed equitably. It matters little whether money is to be obtained from the villages or the towns. Keeping in view the principle of equitable taxation, Government should put up a bold stand against these pressure tactics and see that no meddling is done with its finances and none of its economic policies are thwarted by the pressure tactics. (*Cheers*).

Shri Virendra : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing West Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, generally tributes are paid to the Government on the surplus Budget. As a matter of fact, every Government tries its best to show some surplus in its Budget. It is, therefore, generally said that the Government of a country or a State, by presenting its surplus Budget, wants to show to the world outside that its financial position is quite stable. I am of the opinion that so far as my Government is concerned, it has also prepared a surplus Budget only to show to the world outside that this year the financial position of our State is far better than last year. I, therefore, take this opportunity of congratulating my Government on being desirous of increasing its resources and also on its efforts to fulfil this desire. At the same time, I cannot do without saying that by presenting a surplus Budget it has placed a wrong picture of its finan-

cial position before the world. It has, therefore, instead of doing any real service done a great harm. I am therefore of the opinion that the surplus has been shown in the Budget at the cost of the beneficent Departments. As a matter of fact, our Government is justified in increasing its income to the desired extent. But it would have been in the fitness of things if after making due provision for the beneficent Departments, some savings were made showing to the world outside that it had really produced a surplus Budget. Had this been the case, our Government would have been proud of doing something substantial.

If we take stock of the conditions at present prevailing in our State, we will find that even to-day about eighty thousand refugees are living in camps and thousands amongst them are aimlessly moving from door to door. They do not know what to do and where to go. No adequate arrangements exist for them. If my hon. Friends divert their attention towards the main problems and difficulties with which the people are faced, I am sure, they would realize for themselves the conditions at present prevailing in the State. They will find that the condition of roads, schools and hospitals is very bad and far from satisfactory. This is not all. If they probe into this matter still further, they will find the same thing every where. All these things can be set right provided we have money and more money. The hon. Chief Minister has in the course of his Budget speech laid much stress on the point that more and more money is required to meet those demands which are the pressing need of the hour. I am of the opinion that our financial position is not such as it is claimed to be. I really fail to understand the reasons why a wrong picture of our financial position has been placed before the world outside by showing a surplus in the Budget. It is my firm belief that even if we continue producing deficit Budgets in future for at least ten years more, we should not fight shy of it. The responsibility for the financial difficulties does not in any way fall on us or in other words on the people of the State but it lies somewhere else. It falls entirely on the Central Government which has been responsible for the partition of the Province. Again this responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Central Government which has created such conditions without even consulting us or taking us into confidence and which has thus been instrumental in reducing us to poverty and misery. Hence the weak financial position of our State. If my hon. Friends were to study the history of the Finances of Government of India of the last 20 years, they would find it for themselves that the Central Government had been continuously granting subventions to the tune of Rs. 1,00,00,000 to the Sind Province and to the North-West Frontier Province. In view of the fact that the Central Government had been giving subventions to these Provincial Governments, there seems to be no

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reason why our Central Government should not find it convenient to give us the same subvention and also to take the entire responsibility of solving our problems on their own shoulders. (*Interruptions*). I wish to point out that what we need to-day is that we should place all our difficulties before the Central Government and thus urge upon them to come to our rescue by solving our difficulties. But by showing a surplus in the Budget we cannot expect any help from them as we have made it clear in unequivocal terms that we have already made a saving of 4 lakhs of rupees and naturally it would mean that we do not stand in need of any help. It is crystal clear from this that we cannot expect any help from the Central Government which would be under the impression that our financial position is quite sound. Under the circumstances, I am a little hesitant in paying any tributes to the Government for presenting a surplus Budget. What we have to see is whether we have actually a surplus of Rs. 4,00,000. Has our Government actually made this saving ? I have studied various figures in the Budget and it has not given me any pleasure to note the figures regarding the income of our State. After studying these figures, I have come to the conclusion that in future our Revenue Receipts would be much less than the present income of rupees sixteen crores as shown in the Budget and naturally there will be some reduction in our expenditure too. But in my opinion there will not be so much reduction in our expenditure as in our income. When our income is less and when there seem to be no possibilities of increasing it, as is clear from the Budget, I cannot do without saying that this surplus in the Budget can turn out to be a deficit at any moment.

Now let us see how there is a surplus in the Budget. The Revenue Receipts for the next year include a sum of Rs. 73 lakhs which have been given to us by the Central Government in connection with the rehabilitation of refugees and also a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs which has come to our share under the Deshmukh Award. In spite of all this, it is claimed that there is a surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs in the Budget. On the one hand we find a surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs, while on the other we do not find any improvement whatsoever so far as the economic condition of our State is concerned. I am of the opinion that in spite of this surplus in the Budget, there are certain items of expenditure in which it is but necessary to effect some economy. If my hon. Friends peruse the Budget they will find very interesting things in it, particularly about the Government officials. If we take the case of high officials we will find that in addition to the fat salaries drawn by them, they are granted many allowances. In fact there is no end to the allowances. If my hon. Friends were to study the number of allowances drawn by officials, they will find that there are too many allowances in the form of Travelling

Allowance, Dearness Allowance, Temporary Allowance, Compensatory Allowance, House Rent Allowance. Conveyance Allowance and Uniform Allowance. These are not all. There are still other allowances which are being drawn by the officials. Besides these allowances, we find provision for another allowance in the form of Special Pay. Officials drawing a salary of Rs. 1500/- also draw Rs. 300/- as their special pay. In the Civil Supplies Department a huge amount of Rs. 25000/- is spent in one year on the Special Pays of the high officials only.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: And still the hon. Member will vote for this expenditure.

Shri Virendra: So far as the question of reduction in the expenditure is concerned, I feel that the amount provided for the Governor and his establishment is also unnecessarily high and economy can be effected therein. (*A voice:-* This cannot be discussed here). I am sorry, Sir, but though the expenditure on Governor's establishment is a 'charged' item i.e. it is not subject to the vote of this Assembly, there should be no doubt that under Article 203 of the Constitution of India, it can certainly be discussed here. His Excellency's tours are proving a very expensive joke with the tax-payers as also the public in general. Expenditure incurred in connection with these tours largely goes waste. The gain is not at all commensurate with the expenses.

Another important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister is the institution of the Parliamentary Secretaries and the need for their existence. If he thinks that they have some essential part to play, he may appoint them but if they are to be mere *basta bardars* (file-carriers) of the hon. Ministers, as they have been in the past, it would be no use wasting public money on them. If, however, the Parliamentary secretaries in this Province are intended to play the same role as is played by their counterparts in other countries, we would welcome their appointment. Some time back Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, while speaking on the Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries Bill in the Parliament, remarked that the chief object of having these posts was to impart training in Ministership to the persons who were likely to be candidates for Ministership in the future so that when their time comes, they may be able to discharge their responsibilities efficiently. I would draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister to the remarks of the Prime Minister of India. But so far, these posts have been utilized for other purposes in this Province--purposes quite different from those to which the Prime Minister of India referred in his speech. If even now these posts are to be utilized in the same old manner and for the same old object, it would be better if they are not created at all.

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So far as the question of improving the financial condition of the State is concerned, I think this can best be tackled by reducing unnecessary expenditure. Economy can certainly be effected in various items. Let not the presentation of this surplus budget mislead us into thinking that we are out of the wood and that the economic condition of the province has been stabilized on sound footing. This is far from truth. Here is a statement showing the number of hospitals and schools functioning in our Province. The total number of hospitals for women in the whole Province is not more than 26, and the number of rural dispensaries for 15,000 villages of the Province is just 198. Now let us look at the provision made for industrial training. There are only thirteen institutes for imparting industrial training to women and thirty-four to men. I do not deny that the Government has had to face many difficulties. I am not unmindful of its financial handicaps and stringencies. But what I object to is as to why it has displayed so much anxiety in presenting a surplus Budget. What charm was after all there in presenting a so-called surplus Budget at the expense of so many beneficent activities, for which no provision has been made? The conditions prevailing in the Province have already been described by Friends who have spoken before me. I would only ask if the people are or are not satisfied with our Government, its policies and administration. I am voicing the feelings of the common man when I say that no change has been noticed in the attitude and mentality of the Services. They continue to move in the same old grooves. It is very essential to bring about a change in their outlook. This is on the lips of everybody that the regime has changed, circumstances have changed, people have changed but no change is visible in the Government servants. I am here reminded of the story told by the ex-President of the Congress, Acharya Kriplani, some days back in the Indian Parliament. A young man went to a doctor and told him that he had some defect in his brain. The doctor asked him to come to him after a fortnight when he would examine him. After about three weeks, the doctor happened to come across him and asked him as to why he had not come for medical examination. The young man replied that he had entered Government service and so the doctor need not examine his brain any more. (*Laughter*). Sir, what I mean to stress is that a curious change begins to appear in the mentality of persons as soon as they occupy some office under the Government. The grave circumstances through which this State is passing demand that a concerted effort should be made in which the Government, the people, the Ministers, the officials--all of them-- should contribute their maximum and help the State to stand on its feet once again. A new spirit, a new enthusiasm, is the need of the hour. Let the spirit that has helped Hiroshima, the first victim of the destruction wrought by the first use of the

atom bomb, to rise again as a beautiful town, pervade the minds of the people of this State and emerge in the form of an upsurge of creative activities. We, too, have to build this shattered Province anew and regain for it the glory and splendour that was Punjab. This dream can only be realized through the joint efforts of all sections of the population. This is the only way in which the sinking ship of this State can be set afloat once again.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, after a perusal of this Budget, it appears to us that an attempt has been made by the hon. Finance Minister to delude us. It does not present the real state of affairs, so far as our finances are concerned. The overwhelming majority of the people live in rural areas and it is they who contribute most to the Government revenues and that too in the form of direct taxation such as land revenue, abiana and so on. The contribution of the rural population to the income of the Government is not less than 75 per cent in any case.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It has always been so.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: I was saying, Sir, that whereas the contribution of the ruralites to the Government coffers is 75%, the share they get out of it in the form of services is very meagre. I think it to be Government's paramount duty to reflect in a cool and dispassionate manner as to what it proposes to do for the benefit of the rural population, for their uplift and advancement. I ask the hon. Finance Minister if he wants to keep the rural population alive or not. I remember very well how the present Finance Minister, when he was the Leader of Opposition in the United Punjab, used to hold out golden hopes and promises to the rural people, one of which was the exemption of small peasants from the payment of land revenue, since at that time he was of the view that these poor people could hardly eke out a living income from their land. It now appears that the real motive of those who held such promises was not the thought of the good of the zamindars but just a desire to disturb Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and Chaudri Chhotu Ram, in the execution of their programme of reforms and to mislead the zamindars into thinking that Congress was their greater well-wisher and sympathiser. Now that their sympathisers have come into power, the cat is out of the bag.

Sir, I would point out to you that in 15,573 villages and 96 towns there are only 2,898 primary schools. If this is the condition it will not be possible to check the advance of communism or socialism in our State. I often hear that villagers are being warned by the Government that in case they

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use violent methods in seeking redress of their grievances, they will be put behind the bars. On the one hand they are denied the facilities of even primary education in their villages and on the other hand they are asked to end communism from the State. This is the way in which the Government is dealing with these people. On page 201 of New Expenditure it has been stated:

The number of existing primary schools in this Province is insufficient to cater to the needs of the backward areas in so far as Education goes. There is a keen demand for the opening of more Elementary Schools both for boys and girls in rural area. It is, therefore, proposed to open 25 Elementary Schools (both boys and girls) on cent per cent basis during 1950-51. The schools will, however, be opened at places where rent free buildings for the purpose are available. The expenditure involved will be Rs. 42,000.

It is strange that in a big budget of 17 crores of rupees, only Rs. 42,000 have been provided for opening elementary schools. This spirit shows lack of interest in the people of rural areas from where soldiers to the army and labourers for building Bhakra Dam are drawn. I find that a large sum of money has been provided in the Budget for opening new schools in the big towns like Dalhousie and Simla, while a paltry sum has been set apart for opening these schools in rural areas. It has been stated from the Government benches that the Government will accord permission to the opening of primary school in Kangra. I wonder how Government instead of feeling penitent for not doing anything substantial for the welfare of rural classes wants to take credit of a little reserve of good-will that it has shown towards Kangra district. Some of my hon. Friends have remarked that the Unionist Government which espoused the cause of zamindars in the United Punjab was not able to do anything substantial for them. But I would tell them that in the regime of Unionist Government, Sir Chhotu Ram infused a new life in villages. But what we see in this regime is that these Congressmen who move about under the label of Congress and 'ahimsa' are making an all-out effort to break the village life into fragments. (*An Honourable Member*: Please do not criticise Congress, because it is not under discussion). Sir, I did not mean Congress but the Congress Government whose attitude towards rural classes is not only unhelpful but destructive.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the House to Government's efforts to bring medical aid within the easy reach of public. There are only 158 hospitals in 15,000 villages in the Punjab. These hospitals present such a sorry spectacle that even ordinary medicines are not in stock. These hospitals were opened during the Unionist Party regime and not a single hospital has been opened in the present regime. Even in the Budget for the new year, no provision has been made for opening a new hospital.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: How many roads were constructed

when you were in office?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Sir, besides this, I would like to point out that a drastic cut in expenditure has been made in the Cooperative Department and the rural re-construction work has altogether been stopped by a stroke of pen. The need of Cooperative Department cannot be over-emphasised. In fact, Europe made economic advancement through this department and it played a prominent part in the reconstruction of its national life. Moreover, the conditions in the Veterinary hospitals are far from satisfactory and there are no medicines on which the doctors can lay their hands upon. The work in these hospitals is going on in a most inefficient manner. Apart from this, the road system in our State is not satisfactory. There is an urgent need for stepping up road building. Essential as it is, the building of more roads in the town areas, it is obviously more urgent in the countryside in order to bring prosperity to our villages by linking them up with towns. Sometime back the Government had placed an order for machinery but it has not been able to procure it so far. All this state of affairs shows that the Government is little interested in the welfare of rural class and whatever funds it has, these are being spent for providing facilities to the people living in cities. I would, therefore, warn the Government that if we fail by the rural class, India will go the way of China. Again we find that whereas the Government has set apart Rs. 31 lakhs for industries, it has made a provision of a paltry sum of Rs. 40,000 for the Rural Development Board merely to throw dust in the eyes of rural class of people. If such a policy of the Government continues, it is idle to expect from the Government that it will raise the standard of living of rural masses. While we find that the Government have provided all facilities of education to the people living in cities, there is a lack of drive in the literacy campaign in villages. Some people blame the officers in charge of preparing the Budget estimates for not providing adequate funds for Education in the rural areas. They are not to blame. The horse would go the way the horseman is able to take.

Chaudhri Samar Singh: (Karnal South, General Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, after looking through the Budget I am reminded of Kabir who says:

चलती को गाड़ी कहें ।

बने दूध का खोया ।

रंगी को नारंगी कहें ।

देख कबीरा रोया ।

चलती वे गाड़ी कहें ।

घबरे हुए वा भेजा ।

(Ch. Samar Singh)

ਰੰਗੀ ਕੋ ਨਾਰੰਗੀ ਕਹੇਂ ।
ਦੇਖ ਕਬੀਰਾ ਰੋਇਆ ।

Like him I say:

ਅਮਨ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ਜੰਗ ਹੋ ।
ਸਜ਼ਹਬ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ਖੂਨ ।
ਗੁਰਬਾ ਪਰ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਹੈ ।
ਮਿਲੇ ਨ ਜਿਸਕੋ ਚੂਨ ।
ਬਜਟ ਨਾਮ ਕਾ ਜਾਲ ਯਹ ।
ਰਚਾ ਵਿਚਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਸੂਨ ।
ਖੁਸ਼ਹਾਲੀ ਕੇ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ।
ਦਿਯਾ ਗਰੀਬ ਕੋ ਭੂਨ ।

ਅਮਨ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ਜੰਗ ਹੋ ।
ਸਜ਼ਹਬ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ਖੂਨ ।
ਗੁਰਬਾ ਪਰ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਹੋ ।
ਮਿਲੇ ਨਾ ਜਿਸ ਕੋ ਚੂਨ ।
ਬਜਟ ਨਾਮ ਕਾ ਜਾਲ ਜਿਹ ।
ਰਚਾ ਵਿਚਿਤ ਪ੍ਰਸੂਨ ।
ਖੁਸ਼ਹਾਲੀ ਕੇ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ।
ਦੀਆ ਗਰੀਬ ਕੋ ਭੂਨ ।

Sir, to my mind it would have been better to present a deficit Budget in case there were more money for the beneficent departments and less taxes on the poor. Sir, as you know a great injustice is being done to the public in the name of peace, control and such other things. The fact of the matter is that whenever officers of Government find any difficulty in obtaining some article at a proper price they subject it to control. The result is that after imposition of control, the controlled commodity disappears from the market altogether and causes great hardship to the poor villagers. I am myself living in a village and therefore know facts for myself. The villagers as is well known are illiterate folk and find great difficulty in getting even a ration card. If they somehow succeed say through flattery or bribery in getting it, they are not able to purchase the required articles. However, even if they get the article, it does not bring them any palpable advantage. I have calculated that the vendors make thirteen or fourteen rupees out of a tin of kerosene oil. This is nothing short of black market. And suppose the villagers save two annas or so in getting the controlled commodity, don't

they forego a day's wages say about two rupees for effecting this saving. Then, if the control had been imposed on one commodity it would have been understandable. The pity is that it is not one thing that is controlled. Almost everything e.g. cotton, cotton cloth, cement, steel etc has been controlled.

Added to these controls is the difficulty of sales tax. A villager is not usually aware of articles on which sales tax is payable and the vendors are in many cases charging him though they may not be paying anything to the Government. Even when it is payable it unreasonably goes on swelling the prices of articles as the wholesaler, the retailer and the village shop-keeper must all go on charging the tax. It is something awful.

Once I was travelling in a train when a fellow passenger asked as to who ruled India after the Englishman had left. Another replied that the congressman had taken his place. I informed them that in fact it was not the congressman but the 'control' that ruled these days. In this new order every thing except our breathing is subject to control. In addition to control and sales tax, restrictions have been imposed on the movement of various commodities. So many things cannot be carried from a state to a state or even from a district to a district. The poor people being ignorant of rules have frequently to suffer imprisonment and fines on charges of smuggling. These restrictions coupled with control cause the zamindars a very great hardship. I remember when gram was controlled at Rs 9 per maund I could hardly sell it at Rs 6 or Rs. 6½ per maund in my district. If I had been allowed to take my commodity outside the state I could have made substantial profit.

Sir, in my opinion the present sales tax should be abolished. I think in place of the sales tax being imposed at various places and stages a tax should be charged by Government when commodities like gram, gur, sarson, toria, etc., are exported from the State or when certain things like cloth, sugar, oils, etc., are imported into it. This will facilitate matters. Unlike sales tax the business men will not be able to evade this tax.

Now I come to the problem of Grow More Food. It is my honest opinion that there is no use of controlling wheat. I would suggest that our Government instead of spending large sums of money on purchasing it from other countries should pay high prices to the grower here in the country. If the zamindars are encouraged and given prices which we pay abroad they would refrain from producing chillies, onions and tobacco. At present I find every zamindar growing chillies, etc., worth about Rs. 500 every season. In case they get sufficient price for wheat they would certainly grow it.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division Landholders) (*Punjabi*) :

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. Chief Minister, who is in charge of Fniencaportfolio also on presenting a surplus Budget. The Budget shows the

(Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann)

work done by the Government during the outgoing year and its policy for the next year. As the time at my disposal is very short, I cannot go into details but shall only refer to some important points.

The first thing to which I wish to refer is the selection of site for new capital of the state. I cannot congratulate the Government on selecting Chandigarh and its surrounding area for this purpose. I feel, Sir, that the general public does not approve of the selection made by the Government. If people are asked to give opinion on this question, not more than five or ten percent would be found to be in favour of this site for the capital. I know that the Government of India had a good deal of say in this selection but then the Punjab Government should not have ignored the views of the general public of the State. Personally too I feel that the selection is not a happy one and it would not be proper to spend crores of rupees on the construction of Capital at this site. In my opinion, it would have been better to have no permanent capital for one or two years more. The first reason of my saying so is this that the most important problem of rehabilitation of displaced persons has not yet been solved. Secondly, there is danger of hostilities breaking out with Pakistan. These things should be fully considered before arriving at any decision and there should be no haste in constructing the capital. The Government perhaps thinks that by constructing the new capital it would help the rehabilitation of a large number of displaced persons, but I think that none of the efficient physicians and leading businessmen who have gone to other places, would return till the conditions in the State become quite settled. It is essential that in winter the Government offices should be shifted to the plains. Jullunder can serve that purpose very well because a part of the Secretariat is already there. For one or two years the Government can make Jullundur as its capital and after that the question of a permanent capital might be decided.

The next thing to which I wish to refer is with regard to services. It has been said that the services are inefficient, disloyal and anti-congress. Without entering into any controversy, I wish to refer to what an eminent administrator of this country, viz, Sardar Patel has said about them on several occasions.

He has stated that the members of the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service have served the present Government very loyally. In my opinion, in the presence of these words of Sardar Patel, there can be no scope for having doubt about the services. Leaving aside other things done by the British Government, if there is anything which goes to its credit, it is the creation of Indian Civil Service and Indian Police service, which are equalled by no other service in the world in respect of efficiency. I shall request the Government to make full use of these services and to run the administration of the State by taking them into full confidence. My hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar said that the services should be given a free hand. I do not agree

with his proposal and would not like the services to be given the same free hand which he gave them. When he was the Premier of the State, the police not only ruled over the people but in some cases it actually took what could be called police action. For this reason, the Government should have full control over the services but should not interfere in their day-to-day work.

Another request which I have to make to the hon. Members of this House and through them to the general public is this that they should not lose sight of the fact that we are passing through a very delicate and difficult period. We have achieved independence after a great deal of suffering and bloodshed and it is a very difficult task to retain it. I shall request hon. Members of this House to give unstinted support to the Leader of the House so that he may establish a strong and efficient administration in the State. Unless the Chief Minister can devote his full attention to this matter, administration cannot be improved. If there are disturbances in the Punjab, these will have effect on the whole country. In view of these facts, it is our duty to give full support to our leader.

Then, Sir, I notice that the question of rural versus urban and Jat versus non-Jat is being raised in this State. I wish to submit, Sir, that the present conditions do not warrant further division. Have we not already suffered heavily on account of partition? These were things of the past and our slogan now should be Indians first and Indians last, (*Hear, hear*)

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann : (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Gujranwala and Shahdara, (Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the Budget that is now before us, is like a thing brought out of the bag of a juggler. As my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib said before, the Government has depicted a bright picture of our finances. But I would like to call this surplus budget as only a budget of illusion. In it the ruralite as well as the urbanite has been deceived by this illusion of surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs. If even a single person were to lodge his claims with the Government, this surplus would be converted into a deficit of the same amount. The Budget of the Joint Punjab used to amount to Rs. 12 crores while now we have the Budget of Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 17 crores. The Joint Punjab Government within the limits of that Budget provided facilities to zamindars, businessmen and urbanites. But now, in spite of the fact that our revenue receipts amount to Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 17 crores, nothing has been done for the people in general. On the other hand, we are told of debts and other gloomy matters. But I would like to submit that all border States have to incur heavy expenditure. Capitalists are usually shy of investing their capital in a border State, and thus industry cannot flourish. The result is that the people here are mostly agriculturists, who earn their living by tilling land which they cannot leave. Only the other day, we were told in a meeting of the Agriculture Department,

(Sardar Joginder Singh Mann)

that the Government had stopped the giving of taqavi loan and loans for sinking of wells. In view of this fact how can we expect the State to progress when we know that ours is mainly a State of agriculture. There are persons in the Cabinet and also in this House who want to put the whole burden of taxation on the 80 percent population of our State, who live in rural areas. These hon. Members do not even know what sort of life the agriculturists lead. My hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth does not know what manure is. Now, Sir, how can we hope for the betterment of the State when there are hon. Members who show such ignorance about the life of the rural people. Our State, Sir, is passing through a very critical period. In spite of this fact, it is said that our services are inefficient and headstrong. But as my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib pointed out, the horse behaves just as its rider wants it to. I admit there are some headstrong persons in the services. They bring bad name even to others. But, generally it all depends upon the man who is to get work out of them.

The revenue receipts include an amount of Rs. one crore which is to be realised from the rural people. Rs. 62 lakhs will be realised as enhanced abiana and the amount of Rs. 40 laks as Sales Tax from the 80 percent of our population living in villages. The hon. Members compare our State with States like U. P. and West Punjab. They should know that the canals here supply water to the agriculturists only for a few days and their crops suffer drought. In spite of that the agriculturists manage to grow their crops somehow or other. This increase in abiana, under these conditions, is most unjustified and is a tyranny on the agriculturists.

A lot, Sir, has already been said in regard to schools and hospitals. We are told that our income is limited while our expenditure is heavy. But I would like to point out that in the joint Punjab, there were only three Chief Engineers who supervised the whole net work of canals. On the contrary we have now only one canal which can be supervised by a single superintending Engineer. In spite of this fact we have three Chief Engineers. The number is certainly more than we require. In this way, a saving can certainly be effected in various other Departments and the enhancement in abiana should be withdrawn. I would like to point out here that Departments are created to provide jobs for certain persons. For instance, two posts of Personal Assistants to the hon. Ministers are lying vacant for the last six months; but the incumbents of those posts have not been reverted so far. Two Ministers are going to be appointed in order to provide for the two additional P. A's. One Minister has already been appointed and the second will be appointed shortly. This is how matters stand in Punjab. When the hon. Chief Minister is of the view that for the sake of keeping two P. A's two more Ministers must be kept, then the State of Punjab can be saved by the grace of God alone. Conditions in the State are going from bad to worse. Some of my Frinds ehaye referred to them.

In some cases Presidents of Municipal Committees are turned out without any reason what soever. Corruption is prevalent everywhere. Hon. Members of this House are aware of these conditions. But nothing is done to improve this state of affairs. I would appeal to the Chief Minister to be strong so that such a state of affairs may be put an end to. But I remember an Urdu Couplet which goes:—

इरादे बांधता हूँ बांध कर फिर तोड़ देता हूँ ।
कहीं ऐसा न हो जाए कहीं ऐसा न हो जाए ।

ਇਰਾਦੇ ਬਾਂਦਤਾ ਹੂੰ ਬਾਂਦ ਕਰ ਫਿਰ ਤੋੜ ਦੇਤਾ ਹੂੰ
ਕਹੀਂ ਐਸਾ ਨਾ ਹੋ ਜਾਇ ਕਹੀਂ ਐਸਾ ਨਾ ਹੋ ਜਾਇ

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Thakur Beli Ram : (Kangra East, General Rural) (*Hindi*) :— Sir, I wish to congratulate the Chief Minister on his presenting a surplus Budget to this House. But it would have been better if the Chief Minister had sought the opinion of the hon. Members on the question of spending the surplus of four lakhs. It is quite evident from the Budget itself that the surplus of four lakhs is merely a show. This surplus has been achieved by trying to increase the income and to decrease the expenditure. But unfortunately the axe of cuts in expenditure has been applied to the beneficent departments. Only a small increase of about four lakhs of rupees has been given to such an important activity as Education. Nothing useful has been done for the people at large. A college is proposed to be opened in Hissar. Where is the need for such a college when there is already one at Hissar? The Government School at Hissar is being shifted to Dalhousie. What is the good of that? I don't find any need for such wasteful expenditure at such places. No attention is paid to such backward districts as Kulu and Kangra. Where there are no Sanatan Dharm, Arya Samaj or Mission Schools, the Government does not start any school. But where schools of such private bodies exist the Government tries to compete with them by opening Government schools. I am at a loss to understand this strange policy of our Government. What is the principle which our Government kept in view while making cuts in expenditure? I think economy has been made at the cost of public utility services and backward areas like Kangra. Sir, here I wish to point out that the work of settlement in Kulu is quite unsatisfactory. The work was started in 1947. Three years have passed without any appreciable results being achieved. The Government has already spent about fourteen or fifteen lakhs of rupees and more is expected

(Thakur Beli Ram)

to be spent. In my opinion the policy with regard to settlement is wrong. The settlement officer is very able and honest.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Who is he?

Thakur Beli Ram: His name is Sardar Bachittar Singh. He is very hard-working. I would appeal to the Government to finish the work of settlement at an early date because it is a great drain on public money.

Another important fact to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the condition of roads specially in areas like Kulu and Kangra. That money ought to be spent on the construction of new roads and the improvement of existing ones. But what we find in the Budget is that very meagre sums have been provided for this purpose. This is not a sound policy.

As regards forests I need not dwell upon their importance for the State as a whole. But considering it, I regret to note that no useful policy has been followed for preserving the forests. New trees should be planted in large numbers and the roads should be protected. If no proper care is paid to the forest wealth of the State they will be ruined. New forests should be planted so that the Kulu Forest Division may maintain its importance. More care should be paid and the Government should spend liberally on the Kulu Forest Division. Otherwise the forests will be destroyed and the State will stand to lose.

Then, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister said in his Budget speech that a large number of people had been prosecuted under the Arms Act. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that sometime ago the Government announced that anybody who had got unlicensed fire arms, should present them to the Deputy Commissioner or the Superintendent of Police and obtain a licence in lieu of them and that the persons so doing would not be challaned or prosecuted for having kept unlicensed arms in their possession. After the issue of these instructions to the district authorities, people of my *ilaga* presented their guns to the authorities concerned and requested for the issue of licences to them. But they were arrested, challaned, fined and placed behind the bars after prosecution for illegal possession of unlicensed fire arms. I have studied the Arms Act and I know that it contains a section under which the Deputy Commissioner could refuse sanction of prosecution. But, Sir, my constituents were not given the benefit of that section of the law and the poor villagers were put to great hardship. Their guns were forfeited and instead of issuing any licences to them, the authorities inflicted fines and imprisonment. I feel that by such actions the Government bring discredit to themselves. It is a pity that their actions belie their professions. On the one hand an announcement is made that the policy of the Government in regard to possession of fire arms is that the persons concerned could get licences for them but on the other when people ask for licences, legal action is taken against them. Naturally such acts of

the Government shake the confidence of the public in them. Government should have acted wisely.

Then, Sir, a good deal of retrenchment has been effected in the Veterinary Department. I fail to understand why this step has been taken by the Government particularly when the activities of this department in the rural areas are helpful in giving fillip to the Grow More Food campaign. Besides, Government is not making any liberal provision for the grow more food campaign. In the absence of this how can the Government enthruse the zamindars to step up food production? In this connection I may point out, Sir, that we had hoped that after handing over the territories of Kot Garh and Kot Khai to the Himachal Pradesh, Government would extend greater facilities to the Kulu people for the development of fruit industry. It is common knowledge that soil and climate of Kulu are very much suited the production of certain types of fruits, which can find an enormous market not only in this State but in the whole of India. But I am constrained to remark that Government have done nothing to make any provision for this purpose. Government had set up Horticulture Station in Kulu. It had worked only for a month when orders for its closure were issued. I was simply surprised at this unjustifiable action of the Government. I am of the opinion that such vacillating acts of the Government result in the loss of its prestige in the eyes of the public. Government should be chary of doing anything which may deal a blow to its fair name.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to another important matter and that is nationalization of motor transport. I am a staunch protagonist of the policy of nationalizing motor transport, but I am constrained to remark that Government has not done well in selecting the Kangra group line for the purpose of nationalization of motor transport. My submission is that this will involve the Government in losses as it is not expected to yield much income or profit. The reasons are obvious. This is a hilly tract and involves much wear and tear of vehicles. The result will be that Government will have to suffer loss of income and incur much expenditure to meet depreciation and other allied expenses. So I see no bright prospects of this line proving a paying proposition. I have rather serious apprehensions of Government's selecting the Kangra route. When Government would incur losses in this route, the same would be exploited. They would tell the people that their experiment in Kangra has proved a failure and that no useful purpose would be served by further nationalizing the motor transport. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that if it earnestly wants to make an experiment, then some better route in the plains be nationalized and that would certainly yield better results. I am sure, if it accepts my suggestion it would succeed in achieving its object. With these words, I resume my seat.

(The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad rose to speak.)

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; On a point of order, Sir. I have no intention to challenge your discretion to call upon any hon. Member for making a speech. But my submission is that an opportunity should be given to those hon. Members also who want to speak against the Budget. So far most of the time for discussion has been given to those who are morally bound to support the Budget. I hope you will accede to my request. Besides, the hon. Ministers should not be allowed to speak just now. They should be asked to speak after they have heard the views of the Members opposing the Budget.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker** : This is no point of order. There are only four Members in the opposition and two of them have spoken.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Sir, I also want to make a submission in this connection, if it can have any effect on the hon. Minister. We have been given heavy volumes of Budget Estimates and no time to study them thoroughly. I therefore, request that the hon. Members should be given maximum time to express their views on the Budget. An hon. Minister may be given half an hour or so for making a reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I call upon the Leader of the House to speak.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir, ordinarily the distribution of time for the discussion of the Budget is made in such a manner that the Ministers in charge of the departments get ample opportunity to reply to the objections raised by the hon. Members in regard to their respective departments.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : But the hon. Chief Minister did not hear them yesterday.

Chief Minister : If the object of the discussion of the Budget is merely that the hon. Members should raise objections and no reply should be made by the hon. Ministers to refute them, then that discussion could not be called a fair discussion. I have read the rules and I also know it from my past experience that it has always been the practice to offer an opportunity to the hon. Ministers to reply to the objections raised by the hon. Members in their speeches.

Sir, before I proceed with my speech, I feel it my duty to reply to the objections which have been raised on the Budget proposals. I regret that I could not attend the session yesterday as I was not feeling well. I also offer my apologies for not giving any time after the presentation of the Budget in order to enable my hon. Friends to study it. My hon. Friends are aware of the fact that a new system has been introduced under the

new Constitution. During the general discussion on the Budget only general points are discussed. My hon. Friends have also raised discussion on some points during the discussion on the Motion in connection with the Address delivered by His Excellency the Governor. They will also get an opportunity to raise discussion on the general topics when the Appropriation Bill will be brought in for the consideration of the House. As there would be sufficient time at the disposal of the hon. Members till the Appropriation Bill is brought under discussion, it was not felt necessary to fix any time after the presentation of the Budget in order to enable them to study it. Moreover we were awaiting instructions from Government of India as to how Budget was to be discussed. Their instructions reached us late. Under the circumstances it was not possible to fix any time after the presentation of the Budget with a view to enabling them to go through it.

Different kinds of criticism have been advanced so far as the general discussion on the Budget is concerned. Certain criticisms levelled against the Government seem to be of a general nature. It has been said that the administration is very weak and that services do not do any work at all. While some of my hon. Friends have in reply to this point said that the services are working and working well it has also been pointed out that if the hon. Ministers and His Excellency the Governor had not interfered with the services, then there was every likelihood of some more and good work being done by them. Some of my hon. Friends have said that the Ministers interfere with the working of the services simply because they do not do any work. So far as the question of the services is concerned, I think it has been replied in some form or the other but so far as the criticism to the effect that the Ministry or in other words the Government is weak is concerned, I wish to say a few words by way of reply. It is really very easy to say that Ministers interfere with the services and that they do not allow them to do any work. It seems that the critics have not tried to understand the working of the administrative machinery and if they are already aware of it then I cannot do without saying that they have advanced this criticism simply because they wanted to raise objection. However I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that it is the duty of the Ministers to lay down a certain policy and it is the function of the services to carry it out. The procedure adopted in all the countries, except of course two countries, is that after every general election, the Ministry changes but services remain permanent and stationary without any change whatsoever. Previously in the United States of America services also used to change with the change of the Government but now this practice has altogether been stopped there because it was felt that after the change of the Government there

(Chief Minister)

should be no gap in the day-to-day working of the administration. And if for arguments sake, the services also change along with the change in the Ministry then in the absence of an organization for running the day-to-day administration, there would be confusion worse confounded for sometime till some new organization comes forward to shoulder the responsibility to carry on the work. It is therefore, clear from this that in all countries of the world services remain permanent. As I have already stated it is the duty of the services to carry out the policy laid down by the Ministers. If sometime the services do not see eye to eye with the orders issued by an hon. Minister, they bring this fact to his notice and if the hon. Minister still persists that that order must be carried out then they execute it willingly. This indicates that the Ministers are not weak but they know their job and know whatever they want to do in the interests of the public, they do it willingly. Under the circumstances it really ill behoves some of my hon. Friends to say that the Ministers are weak. There are only two things to be studied so far as this point is concerned. We have to see as to what work has been done during the last year and what work we are going to do next year. Unfortunately last year we had two sets of Ministers and the one set succeeded the other. Objections have been raised by some of my hon. Friends that nothing substantial was done to improve the lot of the rural population during the last year. Those of my hon. Friends, who have been raising objections to the effect that nothing but bad work has been done during the last year, perhaps forget that they happened to be at the helm of affairs at that time themselves.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal: The hon. Chief Minister was also one amongst them.

Chief Minister: I do admit that I was one amongst them. I am also responsible for that as we had joint responsibility. If they are under the impression that there was no such responsibility then of course this will go to my credit.

An objection has been raised by my hon. Friend who is a great economist and who has also worked as the Finance Minister of the Punjab. He has in the course of his speech pointed out that by showing a surplus in the Budget we have deceived the public outside by showing that our financial position is quite stable. By Budget, which is a matter of accounting only, we mean that we want to incur such and such expenditure in such and such a way from the income which we hope to get. The surplus Budget of a State or a country can in no way be a sign of prosperity. It is not right to think that any surplus in the Budget

meant the financial stability and the prosperity of the people of the State. By misinterpreting the Budget some of my hon. Friends have tried their best to express their view that the Government has deceived the public outside. Both the remarks of my hon. Friends, if I may be excused to say, are not right. They are sadly mistaken to form such an opinion. If they were to listen to me with rapt attention and patience I am sure, they will soon realize their mistake.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Sir, while framing the Budget, the basic consideration that we kept in view was that we should not undertake any new schemes of development for which we cannot provide money from our income. As a Minister of the Government, I could not be expected to adopt the attitude of a man who goes on spending, without giving a thought to his income, hoping that as soon as it is finished, he would borrow by mortgaging his property. Before the partition the Government property in the Punjab was considerable and then the control of the central Government was not so strict and the provinces could freely take loans against their properties. Now no State can take a loan without the permission of the Government of India and then the loan has invariably to be taken from the latter. No other State except Bombay has been permitted to take loan from any where else. The Punjab Government depends upon the Government of India for loans to carry on its capital works such as Bhakra and Nangal. For 'Grow More Food' schemes also, we get money from them. Now with our limited income, how can we spend more money on Beneficent Departments? Should we get loans for this purpose? If we do so, our condition will soon be like that of a man who goes on borrowing money but lacks the capacity to discharge his debts or even to pay interest on them and has no property to fall back upon. So we decided to allocate money to these departments according to their essential needs and also keeping in view the funds at our disposal, i.e., our income. Whatever money we will get from the Government of India in the form of subsidy or loan, we shall spend it for the good of the Province. Sir, you know it well with what difficulty we have made the Government of India agreeable to giving us Rs 7.5 crores for the construction of Bhakra Dam. We have represented to them that this money will not be sufficient for our needs. When we are finding it so difficult to get money for such works, where can we get the funds from for spending more on Beneficent Departments?

Now the financial position of the Government of India is at present not so good. They are straining every nerve to fight the inflation and have, therefore, expressed their inability to give the promised money to the States. If their financial condition improves after June or July, we shall be able to get a loan and we shall be able to utilize it for our various needs.

(Chief Minister)

An objection was raised as to why no provision has been made for Post-War Development Schemes in the Budget for 1950-51. I wonder why my able Friend who made this objection, forgot that these schemes were being financed by the Government of India. To the Punjab and Bengal, the Government of India had decided to give as much as they spent on these schemes, without any obligation to contribute anything from their own revenues. In the previous two years, we provided for these schemes as much money as was given to us by the Government of India. For the coming year, at first they had agreed to give Rs. 1.5 crores. Later on they came down to one crore. Again the decision was revised and we were told that we could this year have money for the schemes that were already in hand, that no money could be given for new schemes and that from next year no money will be made available for any scheme. Now all the money that we got in connection with Post-War Development Schemes was really a grant and when this grant is stopped, how can we be expected to carry on these schemes? For seven and a half months of the year 1947-48, the Government of India had granted us a subsidy of one crore. During the years 1948-49 and 1949-50, we were given a subsidy of Rs. 1.75 crores, each year. For the coming year, at first they had refused to give any subsidy. When we pressed for this, they decided to give us a subsidy of one crore.

Now that our share of the income-tax has been increased a little, it has again been reduced to 75 lakhs. We have included this amount on our income side and have adjusted the expenditure accordingly. Sir, we did not have the courage or rather the recklessness of going on increasing the expenditure, when even the possibility of getting a loan was also remote. Can our economist friends suggest as to where we could get the money from under such circumstances? we would be glad to know their views in this matter. Realizing all these difficulties, we decided to keep our expenditure within the bounds of our income and in doing so, we have not done anything improper or unwise.

On the one hand, objection has been raised as to why more money has been provided for the Education Department and in other quarters we have been criticized for our failure to do anything for providing education to the rural people. Now, whose suggestion should we accept? Should we try to satisfy the economist friend who holds the view that a larger provision should not have been made for the Education Department or those who advocate the provision of educational facilities for the rural population? Should we close the institutions that are being run by the Government? Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the schools run by the District Boards. Unfortunately, the financial condition of these Boards is

not satisfactory, and some of them have not been able to pay the teachers their salaries for the last two or three months. Some of the District Boards decided to reduce the salaries of their employees. Now, when the teachers demand their salaries, they are asked to approach the Government on the ground that the District Boards are hard up for funds. The Government has also been urged to take over all the schools, and provincialize primary and secondary education. On the other hand we are told and we ourselves also feel that it is the duty of every government of progressive views to advance the cause of local-self government, in order to give the people more and more opportunities to learn to take the local affairs in their own hands and to get training in methods of administration thereby. We are prepared to go further and vest judicial and executive powers in the people. (*cheers*). It is with these objects in view that we brought before the House the Gaon Panchayat Bill which aims at increasing the powers of the Panchayats to settle disputes and manage the local affairs and thus save the poor people from the expense, botheration, humiliation and wastage of time which they have to undergo as a result of litigation and resort to courts for the settlement of their disputes (*cheers*).

We want to entrust the people with more and more powers and a larger and larger share in the administration of local affairs. We do not mind giving them a share of the Government's revenues for discharging their responsibilities satisfactorily. We shall continue to give grants to the District Boards for maintaining schools and dispensaries. If these do not meet their needs, they can raise funds by means of loans from local people or find some new sources of income.

Another objection that has been raised by some of my hon. Friends is that a big sum has been ear-marked for Education. But I may submit that the Government has tried to discharge its duty towards people in the matter of imparting education within its limited financial resources. A stress has been laid on the point that the Government intend to start 25 schools and that Government has allocated Rs. 42,000 for this purpose. But my hon. Friends have not perhaps cared to see the amount of grant that has been provided for the beneficent departments. I may inform the hon. Members that the Government have allocated forty-six per cent of the total provision made for beneficent departments for education. Another charge that has been levelled against the Government is that it has paid scant attention to render assistance to schools in rural areas. In this connection I may inform my Friends that the Government is not to be blamed for this. The District Boards are chiefly responsible for making necessary arrangements to open new schools in villages to meet the urgent needs of rural population in the matter of providing educational facilities to them. When the Panchayat Bill is passed by this Assembly and village Panchayats begin to function, this work

(Chief Minister)

will be entrusted to them. The Government will only lay down its policy with regard to the system of education. The ideal of education, as the House is aware, has been accepted all over the country and the Government propose to start 25 Junior Basic Schools in the State from the next year. The same number of teachers will be required for these schools who will also receive Basic training. Another objection that has been levelled against the Government is with regard to dispensaries in rural areas. I have already informed the House that Government have issued orders for the opening of 18 new rural dispensaries. Of these 10 have already been established and the other 8 would start functioning very soon. In addition to this it is proposed to establish 18 subsidised dispensaries. With the opening of these 36 dispensaries it can be said that there would be one dispensary in the State for 30,000 persons and 100 square miles area. With all this, I feel that the number of dispensaries is inadequate to bring medical aid within easy reach of villagers. But I can say that other States have not been able to make as much arrangements that exist in our State. Apart from this, Government have instructed medical officers in charge of rural dispensaries to tour in villages on four days in a week as an experimental measure. Some of the patients in this way are treated in the villages and others are advised by these medical officers to come to the dispensaries for treatment. The late Col. B. S. Nat whose sad and untimely death has been an irreparable loss to Government had once visited a rural dispensary and he found that out of four beds provided in the rural dispensary none was occupied. It was, therefore, on his suggestion that medical officers were deputed to tour in key villages to bring patients to the dispensaries for treatment. With all the best efforts on the part of Government, I still feel that this number is not at all sufficient for fifteen thousand villages. But we have fixed a standard to provide a dispensary for 100 square miles area and we could only do so much within our limited financial means. It is wrong to say that these dispensaries are for the benefit of people living in cities. In fact these are primarily for the use of villagers. Formerly, the Government allotted Rs. 2,500 per annum as maintenance grant for each District Board dispensary but now the amount has been raised to Rs. 3,000 owing to the general rise in prices of medicines. This has been done in order to enable the District Boards to maintain the rural dispensaries at a reasonable standard of efficiency. Moreover, the grades of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in these subsidised dispensaries have been revised so as to increase the initial pay of Rs. 80/- to 125/- per mensem.

Now I advert to Resources and Retrenchment Committee. It has been said that though this committee was set up long ago, its report has not been published so far. I may inform my hon. Friend that its report is ready and the members of this committee have been asked to attend its

meeting on the 24th of this month in order to affix their signatures on the report. My hon. Friend who has raised this objection knows it full well that the recommendations of the committee were sent to the Government from time to time and the Government took such action as it thought necessary. Its recommendations with regard to increase of sources of revenue were fully scrutinized by the Government and it took decision in the matter. Its proposal to increase canal water rates by 100 percent could not be accepted and the Government decided to raise the water rate by 50 per cent. This increase of water rate has been vehemently criticised by the ruralite members and though Government are convinced that this increase is a fair and equitable taxation, it has decided to set up a new Resources and Retrenchment Committee to go into the merits of the case and to suggest alternative sources of income for balancing the Budget if water rates are not increased. I do not favour the idea that people should be under the impression that the Government propose to levy taxes forcibly. If the Government had an idea of imposing new taxes, it would not have increased the rates of other taxes. Of course, Government have tried to increase its revenue by indirect taxation and by doing so, I think, Government have not committed any mistake. The new Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been set up in deference to the wishes of the hon. Members of this House as there was an urgent necessity for doing so. I have not shown any weakness in this matter and any expenditure that is incurred in this connection will, I think, be in the right direction. I know that I share the responsibility for the delay in the conduct of work by this committee but I would tell my hon. Friend who has raised this objection that he also cannot conscientiously absolve himself of the responsibility of such delay for the period he remained in office of the Finance Minister.

Sir, it has been remarked that no reduction has been effected in salaries.

I do not wish to take much time on this point. This matter 5 P. M. has been under the consideration of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. The Government of India decided that those who were in receipt of a salary exceeding Rs. 3,000 should impose a cut on their salaries and that in case of persons whose salaries ranged between Rs. 250 and Rs. 3,000, a scheme of Compulsory Savings should be enforced. This scheme has been enforced and all officers whose salary exceeded Rs. 3,000 have reduced their salaries by half the amount of excess over Rs. 3,000.

In reply to a question regarding His Excellency the Governor I gave some figures. But that reply did not mention that His Excellency like the Governors of other States had also reduced his salary by 15 percent. As it was not possible to effect a cut in these salaries which had been fixed under a statute this thing was made possible by an ordinance issued by the

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Governor-General. In addition to this I may inform the House that our Governor has effected a substantial reduction in his expenditure.

One of my hon. Sisters was pleased to ask as to what was the necessity of giving travelling allowance to the Ministers when they had been provided with state cars. Perhaps the numbers of our cars misled my hon. Sister. I may tell her that out of five cars only one is that of the State and four are private. For private cars travelling allowance is given at the rate of ten annas per mile and on basis of calculation I can assure the House that greater expenditure is incurred if Government cars are used.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of information, Sir. I wish to know that when one car is Government owned why should the expenditure this year be rupees one lakh against rupees eighty thousand of last year.

Chief Minister : It appears as if my hon. Sister is shifting her ground and intends to make another speech in support of her new position. She is at perfect liberty to do so. But everybody in the House heard her say that Ministers should not charge any travelling allowance as they had been given Government cars.

Sir, I wish to invite the attention of the House to a few points by way of explaining my position. I am to say that with the exception of two or three beneficent departments, to other's we have given larger sums than before. Take for example the Department of Industries. This department has been given a sum of rupees three lakhs more than the grant of the last year. Sir, a charge has been brought against me that on the one hand I was foregoing revenue from water rate and nationalization of transport and on the other I promised efficient administration. To some of my Friends these two things are rather hard to reconcile. As a matter of fact the argument adduced is of course lawyer like but it is certainly not sound. I have only promised that in case we come to a settlement with the Motor Unions and that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee advises that water rate should not be increased as there are other means of covering the deficit, we will postpone nationalization and effect no increase in water rates. I am only prepared to accept these two demands if money can be had from some other sources and not otherwise.

Sir, I draw the pointed attention of the House to two things. It has been said that the ex-Premier issued some order for removing corruption from among the Ministers. Accordingly to this version two Judges of the Federal Court were to make the necessary investigation. In this connection the House will recall that when the ex-Premier made his statement on the 24th October 1949, I gave an assurance that I shall in no case alter the

orders of my predecessor. Here I shall throw some light on the alleged order.

I read out the note written by the ex-Premier on the morning of the 17th October.

I notice that a campaign of vilification is being conducted in the Press against the hon. Ministers of the East Punjab Government making allegations of corruption, favouritism, nepotism, etc. It is of vital importance that in the interests of purity of public life and in the interests of hon. Ministers themselves, the hon. Ministers who are unable to defend themselves publicly should be given facilities by Government to vindicate their honour. In order to restore public confidence, it is very necessary that a Commission consisting of two High Court Judges be constituted at once to enquire into the allegations against the hon. Ministers, whether present or past. The hon. Chief Justice of the Federal Court should therefore be requested for the loan of the services of two Judges of the High Court for this purpose. Action should be taken accordingly.

On this the Chief Secretary wrote the following note on the same day, i.e., on the 17th of October.

H. P. m's note below. It seems to me that before we can make a reference, it will be necessary to have a list of definite charges or allegations against definite persons. We should also have an idea of the material and evidence on which the charges are based. We should have an approximate idea of the amount of work that would be involved. Presumably hon. P.m. wants Judges from a Court or Courts other than the East Punjab High Court. In any case I think the correct course would be to make confidential reference to the Centre, presumably the Ministry of Home Affairs and not to the hon. Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

2. It would probably be necessary to have definite cases worked out by specially selected staff from our Special Inquiry Agency before proceeding further. If hon. P.m. agrees, the Course suggested above may be adopted and the material actually collected before a reference is made to the Government of India.

On this the ex-Premier again wrote on the very day that is the 17th of October.

I agree with Chief Secretary. A suitable press note should issue inviting public to communicate their allegations to Chief Secretary. Perhaps it might become necessary to appoint a special officer at a later stage to sort out the material for reference to S. I. A.

I do hope the implementation of the proposal will not be postponed or delayed.

From the notes read out by me, it would be clear that nobody could call the ex-Premier's note as an order for securing the services of two Judges of Federal Court. This was only a proposal. The Chief Secretary gave his opinion on it and the Premier agreed with him and directed that a press note might be issued inviting the public to supply any material which they might have against any Minister. A special Enquiry Officer was then to be appointed to go through that material. It was after the receipt of that

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officer's report that the question of securing services of Judges of the Federal Court, for holding any enquiry could arise. It would not in these circumstances be correct to say that the ex-Premier issued an order and I cancelled it. When I received this note on the 24th October, I asked for the opinion of the Home Department. They wrote that there had been such a case in the British Parliament. At first all the available material had to be collected and the question of the manner of holding enquiry would arise only afterwards. The case referred to by the Home Department is reported in the proceedings of the House of Common at Pages 87 to 94 of Hansard Debates for the year 1948-49 and relates to the period 26th October to 12th November, 1948.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : When was this reference made and when was the reply received ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Would it not be better if they discuss these things in private ?

Chief Minister : I got this note on the 24th October after my return from this House. I wrote on it on the 28th October and sent it to the Home Department and to H. E. the Governor. I got His Excellency's reply on it on the 8th December. Then, Sir, I told the ex-Premier that if he had any complaints against me which he wished to be enquired into by Judges of the Federal Court, he should send those to me. One of my colleagues offered to resign in order to enable an enquiry to be held against him, if the ex-Premier so desired. No reply was received on this offer for several months.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Your colleague was my colleague too.

Chief Minister : Then, Sir, it has been said that the Government has decided to proceed with only four cases connected with iron and steel scandal. In this connection, I wish to submit, Sir, that Enquiry Staff was deputed to investigate into all the cases. All the dealers who used to receive permits and numbered about five or six hundred were collected and their cases were examined. On the basis of this examination it was decided that there was no necessity of enquiring into all these. It was decided that cases should not be instituted against those dealers who agreed to purchase in the market the same quantity of steel which they had sold in the black-market. Thorough enquiry was made and in those cases where the dealers purchased and used for manufacturing purposes the same quantity of steel which they had formerly sold, it was decided not to institute prosecutions. There was one such steel-dealer of Batala who did not fulfil this condition. His case is still in the court and the Government has not interfered with its normal course. Some persons against whom prosecutions were started, filed appeal in the High Court.

Mr. Speaker : Nothing should be said about the cases which are *sub-judice*.

Chief Minister : High Court delivered judgement on these appeals and it was studied by the Public Prosecutor and the Legal Remembrancer. They advised the Government to proceed with only four cases which should be treated as test cases and to obtain far off dates in the remaining cases. Four cases, which were considered to be the strongest, were selected by these officers and these are going on in the Courts. Two of these cases relate to dealers of Simla and Ambala and two to those of Ludhiana. These are going on in the courts of Ambala and Ludhiana. The Magistrate whom the ex-Premier appointed for trying all these cases at Ambala was a re-employed Magistrate. The Government decided to terminate the services of all the re-employed Magistrates. In the light of this decision, if the Magistrate who was trying steel cases was changed, those cases in which charges had already been framed would have to be started *de-novo*. Therefore it was decided to let such cases to be tried by those Magistrates who had framed the charges. It was decided that cases of Ludhiana and Jullundur should be tried at Ludhiana, those of Simla and Ambala at Ambala and those of Karnal and Rohtak at the former place. The Government felt that if all the cases were tried by a Magistrate at Ambala, the parties would have to incur heavy expenditure. It was decided in their interest to try these cases at the place where they carried on business or was not much away from it. As the Government had decided to terminate the services of re-employed Magistrates and it was essential that the iron and steel cases should be tried by Special Magistrates, the question of appointment of such Magistrates arose. As the Government had decided to proceed with four test-cases, a Magistrate at Ludhiana was made a Special Magistrate. Both the cases there were sent to him. Then, Sir, it has been said that only those cases are being proceeded with, in which the parties were comparatively poorer and that rich persons were not being proceeded against. In this connection, I have already submitted, Sir, that it was decided to carry on only those cases which the Law Officers considered to be stronger than others. It was not proper to make weak cases as test cases.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Does the hon. Chief Minister think that the remaining cases are weak ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated and I wish to repeat it that Law Officers of the Government selected those cases which they considered to be the strongest and in which charges had already been framed. After these have been decided, the Government will consider whether to proceed with the remaining cases or not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the hon. Chief Minister thinks that the remaining cases are weak ? What does he mean by test-cases ?

Chief Minister: My lawyer Friends can very well understand me when I say that certain cases were considered stronger than others. I do not wish to say anything more about the cases which are *sub judice*. In the remaining cases dates have been obtained and after these four cases have been decided by the High Court, the remaining ones would be proceeded with.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Leader of the House should not lose temper like this.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: It would be better if he could tell in what respect the other cases are weaker.

Chief Minister: Sir I learnt that copy of a certain letter was placed on the table of the House. I am not aware whether you permitted it to be placed on the table or not and whether it shall be incorporated in the proceedings. I may, however inform the House that the said letter was written by a shift Engineer of the Hissar Electric Supply Company. It was stated in that letter that the proprietors of the company had indulged in black market. The proprietors of the company were my brother Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Seth Sudarshan. I think there can be no bigger lie than the statement made in the letter.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is the word 'lie' parliamentary?

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** The word is too strong.

Chief Minister: I am not saying this word in regard to any hon. Member. I have said so in regard to the contents of the letter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: On a point of order, Sir. I want to know if it is parliamentary to say that a particular person is not a liar but he tells lies in his speeches?

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** In that case it is unparliamentary.

Chief Minister: To make a presumption and then put certain words in my mouth is unparliamentary. Then, Sir, it has been said that the Government has acted in a high handed manner in the case of Pandit Faqir Chand, Member Legislative Assembly. The other day, I did not say anything on this point, because I thought that the case had become *sub judice*. But now I can say this much that no rules have been violated in this case. I have also got a letter in this connection which can be read out to the hon. Members in a party meeting. It is said in that letter that, if there is any technical defect, that should be overlooked and if that is not possible, he should be nominated as President by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: May I know if that letter was written to the hon. Chief Minister in his capacity as Chief Minister?

Chief Minister : Again it has been said that Lala Duni Chand of Ambala made certain complaints which have not been enquired into by me. I may point out that he met me at Ambala where I had gone in connection with University Convocation. At that time, I satisfied him in regard to all his complaints except one. This one complaint related to the decision of the Government for locating the Capital at Chandi Garh. He wanted the Capital to be located at Ambala. We surveyed the possibilities for locating the Capital at some place in the plains. On the one hand it was complained that people who lived at Simla or came here suffered great hardship. But when we decided to build new Capital, it was complained that we were unnecessarily spending money. I would like to point out that the Government is not spending anything from its own revenues for this purpose. An amount of Rs. one crore will be received from the Government of India as loan. For the rest, the previous hon. Chief Minister declared that if 30 thousand people applied for the purchase of plots at the Capital, the Government would go ahead with the Scheme. People are sending applications for this purpose and they would have to pay the price of plots in five instalments. If we succeed in building the Capital, the displaced persons who are now rotting in U. P. and Delhi, would get a chance to stand on their feet once again. Secondly the people who come here would be saved from lot of trouble and hardship. Besides this, the difficulty experienced on account of the location of offices at different places, would also be removed. Our two hon. Ministers toured the area of Baldev Nagar Camp near Ambala for the purpose of selecting site for the Capital. We required 50 square miles of area for housing 5 lakhs of people. But there was difficulty regarding the acquiring of the area from the PEPSU Government in whose territory Baldev Nagar lay. We also visited places like Ludhiana, Phillaur and Jullundur; but we could not get necessary facilities for the purpose of locating Capital. It is said why doesn't the Government acquire land on this side of the stream called Sukhna. But I would like to point out that it is for the experts to say whether water, climate and other things are of the requisite quality or not. We are, however, prepared to give land for land to the people who would be displaced from the site of the Capital. During all this time we continued to acquaint the Government of India regarding this matter. We wanted to see the Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister in the form of a deputation; but we were told that the Government of India appreciated our difficulties and were prepared to help us. Even in the Governors, Conference the Governor pressed for more grant for this purpose. But we shall definitely know in August as to how much more the Government of India can give us.

Sir, as you know, we could not get land near Ambala because it belongs to Pepsu. So we could not think of choosing that place for the construction of the Capital. Moreover due to financial stringency it was general by

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demanding that we should not undertake construction of a new Capital. The Prime Minister of India came to Ambala. In his speech he referred to the Capital and said that the people of Punjab were not enterprising. They could not even decide upon having a Capital for themselves and constructing it. In the light of his observations it was finally decided to build the Capital at Chandigarh.

Sir, some objectionable words have been used on the floor of this House by some of the hon. Members. I wish to submit that such a practice is undesirable specially when the man against whom such words are used is not present to defend himself. In the past there has been a convention that if the man could not be present, no charges against him were levelled. But in spite of that an hon. Member has used the word "Rasputon" on the floor of the House. This does not appear to be proper. If I become a Minister under the composite cabinet I am considered to be fit enough to take charge of the portfolios of Finance. Then I am thought to be quite competent to hold such an important portfolio. But now I am alleged to be incompetent. Perhaps according to them when a set of Ministers is replaced by another I become incompetent. Their criticism is based upon prejudice and is quite unjustified.

Sir, it has been alleged that this is quite an ordinary budget. I admit this. In fact those who have no good finances are unable to make extraordinary budgets. This is quite natural. Ours is a poor province and we can hardly make our both ends meet. An hon. Member has remarked that the policy of long range planning is conspicuous by its absence and that Government have lost contact with the masses. He has gone to the extent of stating that I have been unable to satisfy the people. Sir, my submission is that if such is the view of the majority of the members of this party and if they consider that I am incompetent, they can throw the budget and have competent persons in our place. (*Interruption by Mehta Ranbir Singh*) I don't care for renegades.

Sir, there are three types of works in the budget. Firstly, there are those which were running before we achieved independence and which cannot be stopped. We shall have to continue incurring expenditure on them because their nature is such that we cannot help spending on those works. The only difference that can be made, after we have achieved independence, is that we can change the point of view with regard to these items. Now we can have the consideration of the progress of the people whereas formerly it was only the benefit of the rulers. Secondly, there is the task of Relief and Rehabilitation of the displaced persons on which we are spending. The third item is that of development. We have been charged to be quite forgetful

of what the Government of India is doing in this matter. It has been alleged that we are not doing any long-range planning at all. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the formation of the Rural Development Board. It has been constituted in accordance with the general policy followed by Government of India in the sphere of development. Our object is to co-ordinate our activities with the broad lines of policy followed by the Government of India. We wish to implement the policy of the Central Government so that it may be to the benefit of the State and its people. Demonstration parties are arranged for the development of village industries. We wish to give training to the workers by opening training Centres in the villages. There are a few such Centres and we desire to have more. Every effort is made to follow the plans made by Central Government. If this is not planning I wonder what my hon. Friend wishes us to do. I have already explained that there are certain items of expenditure which we cannot change. My esteemed Friend knows full well how the policy is discussed and the Budget Estimates are made. Of course, we had to face difficulties in making the budget for 1947-48, for reasons known to all. But the examples of the other Budgets are before us. When the Budget for 1948-49 was made, every department was thoroughly discussed and the Budget was moulded in accordance with the conclusion arrived at in the course of these discussions. The same procedure was followed in 1949-50 as well. The Finance Minister prepared the Budget with the help of the Heads of all Departments. The first consideration was the revenues of the Province. Out of all the receipts, the amount to be spent on those items which we could not change was noted. We could only see, as stated above, that these items were to serve the best interests of the State. After that the Budget was planned on a long-range policy and our object was to provide food, clothing and shelter to every citizen. Government had Sarvodaya Social plan before it as also the Central Government plans. We were most keen to put them into practice. But if my hon. Friend still thinks that I have not been able to attract the imagination of the masses, if he considers that I am incompetent to act in the interest of the people, I am prepared to get out and hand over the reins of Government to him.

Then, Sir, it has been said that if we purchase tractors, they will meet the same fate which befell the trucks. May I remind the hon. Member that sometime ago when Shri Gopalaswami Aiyangar came to Jullundur we had a discussion whether we should get a number of tractors from the Central Tractors Organisation. After fully deliberating the matter we decided to place our demand for tractors before him. The object of acquiring tractors was to bring under cultivation those lands for which the tenants were not available or those lands which were to be reclaimed but whose

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The results were not heartening in the absence of the element of compulsion as it depended upon the sweet will of the zamindars to get their lands consolidated or not. So it was decided that consolidation of holdings must be brought about compulsorily. Consequently, an hon. Member of this House moved an unofficial resolution on the subject in consultation with the Government, recommending thereby to introduce compulsory consolidation of holdings. As a result of the acceptance of this resolution by the Assembly, Government enacted the Consolidation of Holdings Act. We did not stop here. We passed another law making fragmentation of holdings impossible. Now, when our patwaris of both the Revenue and Co-operative Departments, who are at present busy with the Rehabilitation Department in the work connected with the quasi-permanent allotment of lands, are free, we would lose no time in starting the work of consolidation. I may also point out that we have appointed a Director for this purpose so that he may chalk out plans for the speedy execution of the consolidation work.

Then an hon. Member was pleased to remark that there was no increase visible in the revenue receipts and yet the Government claimed to possess sound and stable financial position. Has the Government got some subsidy or loan to balance the Budget? If my hon. Friend had cared to peruse the revenue receipts for the year 1950-51, he would have seen that the revenue figures for that year exceeded the figures of 1949-50 by 50 to 60 lakhs of rupees. I hope the revised estimates will bring even more revenue.

Then an interesting thing has been said by an ex-Parliamentary Secretary in regard to the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. He was pleased to say that Parliamentary Secretaries should be appointed only if the object of their appointment is to train them so that ultimately they could replace me; otherwise there was no necessity to appoint them. I have never objected to the aspirations of a Parliamentary Secretary who after training wishes to take my place. I am even prepared to make room for him. So far as the question of my training them is concerned, on the one hand my competence as Finance Minister is doubted and I am dubbed as inefficient Chief Minister, devoid of any ability for planning, and on the other I am asked to impart training and prepare the Parliamentary Secretaries to qualify for Ministerships. I may tell the House that I am prepared to relinquish the office for the sake of those gentlemen who have already acted as Parliamentary Secretaries.

Another interesting thing that I have noticed is a curious change in the

I may tell the House that we are expecting to complete the work of consolidation of holdings within five years. (*Applause*). We are going to see this work through because we feel that consolidation of holdings would prove instrumental in giving impetus to the people to have tube wells for irrigation purposes. I may also point out that those persons get tube wells sunk in their lands who have enough land for cultivation so that even if the land is consolidated, they remain in possession of a substantial and unified tract to irrigate. But if in the process of consolidation, their land is made over to some one else, they will get full compensation for the facility that land was having as a result of the tube wells. Hon. Members, therefore, may rest assured that sinking of tube wells will be and is being done after careful planning, and the experts of the Irrigation Department are fully consulted in the matter, before hand. As a matter of fact, the Department advises the intending persons about the suitability of place and necessity of the tube wells. This will indicate that nothing is being done without proper planning and that tube wells are not being sunk haphazardly.

Then it has been remarked that consolidation of holdings should be done in a planned manner and that Government has given no indication of proper planning in the matter. So far as this matter is concerned, I am of the opinion that if we can get proper personnel trained in the consolidation work, we would complete the work in less than five years. (*Cheers*).

Sardar Swaran Singh: Then, will the Chief Minister kindly provide the maximum amount of money for the execution of this work?

Chief Minister: If the money is available, I assure my hon. Friend that we will spare no pains to see the consolidation of holdings through even before five years.

Sardar Partap Singh : I would request the hon. Chief Minister to charge the cost of consolidation of holdings on acreage basis and finish the work within five years.

Chief Minister : I have already held out an assurance to that effect. But I would request the hon. Member to work on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and put forward proposals making money available to me. Then I will try to fulfil my promise. Now, Sir, the work of consolidation of holdings has an interesting history behind it. Previously the Revenue Department used to do this work. But later on it was entrusted to the Co-operative Department and it did this work on voluntary basis. There was no compulsion involved in the consolidation of holdings.

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reclamation was not possible through individual efforts. So, as decided, and in consultation with the Government of India, we entrusted the Central Tractors Organisation with reclaiming certain areas in the State of Punjab. Since the Organisation failed to accomplish the work successfully, the Punjab Government was asked to take over the work under its own control. Consequently the Department of Agriculture has been put in charge of the work. Now we have 25 lakhs of acres of culturable waste land which requires to be reclaimed. Besides, lands left by Muslims have been covered with weeds due to their non-cultivation. They also require to be reclaimed. Now these lands are in such a condition that their reclamation is not possible without the aid of tractors. So it has been decided to employ them for this purpose. As a matter of fact, the reclamation work has made sufficient progress. Then there are certain persons who can afford to purchase tractors for the purpose of cultivation of their lands. Their demand is also to be met by us. So it is abundantly clear that there is not the slightest possibility of our tractors lying idle or remaining in disuse. In fact they are all occupied at present. The apprehensions of my hon. Friends, therefore, on this score are entirely unfounded.

Then an objection has been raised in regard to the sinking of tube wells. It has been remarked that the work has been undertaken haphazardly and not in a systematised or planned manner, because the consolidation of holdings has not been completed as yet. But does this mean that sinking of tube wells should be abandoned till the completion of the consolidation of holdings? I don't subscribe to this view. Hon. Members are aware that with the consolidation of holdings, these wells would be in great demand. Now, Sir, the work of sinking tube wells is ordinarily executed by two departments, namely the Irrigation Department and the Agriculture Department. There is a scheme before the Irrigation Department for sinking 250 tube wells in Jagadhri and the work is going to be entrusted to a firm in full consultation with the Government of India. The water obtained from this source would be thrown into a canal and the canal water supplemented with these tube wells water would be utilised for irrigation purposes. Now the Agriculture Department looks to the needs of those zamindars who being affluent, want to have tubewells to irrigate their lands at their own expense. The work of sinking tube wells is done under the aegis of the Agriculture Department on payment. Now, when the work of consolidation of holdings is going to be carried out vigorously, it is hoped that the tubewells will be in great demand. In this connection

attitude of my hon. Friend who has raised certain objections in the course of his speech. It would have been in the fitness of things if he were in his seat. I have been really surprised to find my hon. Friend praising the very Unionist Party against whose candidate he had fought and won elections in 1946 on the Congress Ticket.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: Better sense has prevailed upon him. ((*Laughter*)).

Chief Minister: It is said, that Assembly time is difficult for the Ministers and that the difficult time for the Members is when the elections draw near. At the time of elections we are confronted with this problem as to how to secure votes and also whether the people of the constituency from which we are going to seek elections want us to be their representatives or not. I am really surprised to find my hon. Friend who fought and won elections on the Congress Ticket, praising to-day the Unionist Party.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: Is there any harm in doing so?

Chief Minister: Like my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh I am not praising the Unionist Party and criticising my own party. Like my hon. Friend I was also occupying my seat on the Opposition Benches during the regime of the Unionist Government. At the time I was trying my utmost to follow and act upon the Congress policy and to-day also I am following the same policy. (*Hear, hear*). As a member of the Congress Party and also a member of this august House, he has also to share the responsibility for all that has happened during the last year when he also happened to be at the helm of the affairs for about six months. It is no use finding fault with others when actually the fault lies in one's own self. Here I am reminded of a maxim that "A German says all Germans are bad". I leave it to the hon. Members to deduce the result themselves.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Both are right.

Chief Minister: On the one hand being a member of the Congress Party, my hon. Friend goes on praising the Congress. When the Congress nominates candidates for fighting the coming elections, my hon. Friend after getting the Congress ticket, will keep the Congress programme before the people and thus canvass their votes. But to-day we find the same hon. Member criticising the Congress and praising the Unionist party. (*Interruptions*). Let me make it clear that is not my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal who has praised the Unionist Party. His praising the Unionist Party has some justification in it. I hold a different view so far as that party was concerned. I was of the opinion that there was some scope of making some

(Chief Minister)

improvement in the programme of the party and that there was also the necessity of effecting certain changes in it. There could be some justification on the part of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal if he had expressed the view that the Unionist Party was better than the Congress. However, my hon. Friend who has praised the Unionist Party and criticized his own party should know that it has been said about him that he is a "*Laddu khane wala Jat*".

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know if there is any difference between "*Laddu khane wala Jat*" and "*Dud-pine wala Jat*" ?

Chief Minister : It has been said that the policy regarding the imposition of control is very bad. There are no two opinions on the point that the Congress was not in favour of imposing any control whatsoever. My hon. Friends know it full well that in the middle of the year 1948 Food Procurement Scheme and rationing of food and cloth were abolished. But at the end of the year deficiency in foodgrains was greatly felt both in the urban and rural areas. It was therefore felt necessary to open fair-price shops. Foodgrains were imported from areas outside the State and made available to the people of urban and rural areas at fixed rates. Deficit areas were not ignored and no time was lost in despatching foodgrains to them. In October 1948, rationing was introduced in 10 towns. We also succeeded in lowering the prices of foodgrains in every nook and corner of the State. So far as the scheme of Food Procurement is concerned, I wish to point out that we have procured two hundred and seventeen thousand tons of wheat and have stored this quantity as a permanent reserve. It is because of this fact that we have not felt the necessity to import foodgrains from outside.

Further it has been suggested that there should be free trade in foodgrains. I wish to bring this home to those of my hon. Friends who hold this view that Punjab is not a separate entity and that it is part and parcel of Bharat. Bharat consists of all the States. It is the representatives of all the States of Bharat who decide as to how much quantity of foodgrains produced in a certain State should be allowed to be set apart for its consumption and how much quantity should be allowed to be exported from that State to other States. Basic plans are thus formed and under these plans States are allowed to purchase and sell foodgrains. Our State cannot resort to free-trading unless it forms itself into a separate entity or in other words it will have to secede from India, which we cannot tolerate. Our State is part and parcel of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. It really ill-behoves my hon. Friends to say that we should resort to free-trading in foodgrains which in other words means that we should secede from Bharat. Their arguments

do not stand to reason. It is really no use entertaining such ideas. However, I wish to make it clear that Government felt it necessary to impose control over foodgrains.

So far as sugar is concerned, control has been imposed on it by the Government of India and we have nothing to do with it. We have asked the Government of India to increase the quota of sugar already allocated to our State. We have also requested them that in case it was not possible to provide us with the increased quota of sugar we may be allowed to continue receiving the present fixed quota and that we may also be permitted to decontrol it. Both the requests were not accepted by them. We have to approach them for providing us with more quota of sugar as we do not produce sufficient quantity in our State.

As regards kerosene oil, it is imported into our country from dollar countries abroad. In spite of the limited dollar earnings, the Government of India continues to import kerosene oil from abroad. It is distributed among all the States according to the ratio of population.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : On a point of order, Sir. Is not the House responsible for the health of the hon. Chief Minister? He was not feeling well yesterday and to-day he has been on his legs for the last two hours. (*Interruption*).

Chief Minister : Sir, while the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, I had expressed the view that I would reply to the debate and that no other Minister would speak. So, I have taken the time of my colleagues and not that of any other hon. Member.

Sardar Swaran Singh : He is not complaining about the time that you have taken, but he is thinking about your health. (*Laughter*).

Chief Minister : Sir, leaving aside other matters for the present, I particularly want to touch upon two more important matters just now. An hon. Friend has dwelt upon the hardships of the people belonging to the Scheduled castes. I had always felt as to why those members of the Scheduled castes who tilled land with their own hands should not be permitted to purchase it. But until the existing law is amended, it is not possible to do so. But I am glad to announce that we have now decided to treat the members of the Scheduled castes as defined in the Constitution of India, as 'agriculturists' within the purview of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act. (*Cheers*). They will soon be declared 'agriculturists'. (*Loud applause*).

Sardar Partap Singh : What about the artisans?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should have patience.—

ਸਹਜ ਪਕੇ ਗੇ ਮੀਠਾ ਹੋਏ ।

ਸਹਜ ਪਕੇ ਸੇ ਮੀਠਾ ਹੋਏ ।

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the Government intends declaring tillers of land other than those belonging to the Scheduled Castes as 'agriculturists'?

Chief Minister : Sir, so far as my interpretation of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act is concerned and so far as I understand its objects and reasons, I think it was enacted with a view to giving protection to some comparatively backward communities and we see no reason why this protection should be withdrawn. (*Hear, hear and cheers*). If the members of those castes want to sell their land, they cannot sell it to anybody outside those castes. So the members of the agricultural tribes can buy or sell land among one another. If people outside their tribes have a mind to take to agriculture, they can purchase land owned by the non-agriculturists.

Sardar Swaran Singh : They can purchase even from agriculturists, after obtaining the permission of the Deputy Commissioner, which is granted in suitable cases.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am of the view that nobody who holds land up to ten or twelve acres—an area which constitutes an 'economic holding' or land sufficient for one plough be permitted under the law to sell, mortgage or alienate his land, nor should it be liable to attachment by the Government. (*Cheers*). This, in my opinion, would be real protection to the tillers.

Sir, the Prime Minister of our country has expressed a keen desire that this country should become self-sufficient in food by the end of 1951 and that no foodgrains shall be imported thereafter, and if even then there will be a shortage, we shall have to carry on without imported foodgrains. Accordingly, the Government of India wrote us to prepare 'Grow More Food' schemes for our State. A Food Commissioner was appointed to ascertain what contribution each State could make towards the 'Grow More Food' campaign and in what manner and with what help from the Government of India. There are two kinds of schemes under the 'Grow More Food' campaign. Firstly, there are 'productive schemes' which are financed by loans. Secondly, there are 'unproductive' schemes for which we get money in the form of subsidies. Previously, we used to get two-thirds of the money that we had to spend on food as subsidies from the Government of India, and for financing 'Grow More Food' schemes, we were given money

in the form of loan. At this stage, I don't want to go into the details of these schemes, as discussion is going to take place on the demand pertaining to these schemes after a few days.

Now a few words with regard to the destruction of pests and animals which constitute a serious menace to the crops. An objection was raised that this Government has no definite policy in regard to this matter. A suggestion has also been made that the destruction of monkeys etc. be stopped altogether. If the criticism of the Government policy in this matter had been made by those who are sitting opposite to us, it would have been understandable because in the legislatures all the world over, it is customary for the Opposition to oppose and criticize the Government just for the sake of opposition. But I am sorry to say that this criticism was not confined to the hon. Members sitting on the opposite benches. It is for their sake that once again I declare that the Government has been responsible for the killing of a large number of monkeys and intends continuing their destruction and also intends to help those who want to do so. (*Cheers*). It is absolutely a false impression that because Lala Hardev Sahay wants it we shall stop the destruction of monkeys. Like Lala Hardev Sahay, some of the hon. Friends here seem to hold the view, that because we are determined to save the crops from the inroads of wild animals in order to be able to provide food to more human beings and are making strenuous efforts in this connection, we have become unfit and incapable of running the administration and that the Governor's rule is the only need of the hour. If the hon. Members of this House say that the Government is going to change its policy because a private individual wants it, it surely does not reflect any credit on them or on us.

Sir, now I would like to make a brief mention of some other activities of the Government, aimed at increasing the production of the State. The first among them is our reafforestation scheme. After the partition, few forests have been left in this Province and so we are now deficit in timber and firewood. Reafforestation will not only solve this problem but also help in the reclamation of land spoilt by erosion and will make it possible to utilise this land for cultivation of food crops. We are making strenuous efforts in this direction in various parts of the Kangra district and minor irrigation schemes are also being executed, from which water will soon be available for the newly-planted trees. Experiments are also being made in connection with the scheme of lifting water by means of high dams. Research is also being carried on in regard to the development of fruit-growing industry in this district. There is a nursery for this purpose in Kulu.

(Chief Minister)

We are anxious to find ways and means of utilising the herbs which grow in this district for the manufacture of medicines. Besides this, we propose to establish there such industries which have a fair chance to thrive. We have appointed an Industrial Surveyor whose report in this connection is awaited and after sometime we shall be able to establish industries there. As the raw rosin had been yielding good income we have not been able to start rosin factory. The Government had advised the owners of rosin factory to form a company but they have not taken a decision in the matter. We cannot enter into partnership with this concern for the reason that the factory is situated at a long distance from the city and that the factory owners are also not likely to be benefited thereby. Besides this, the Government has decided to establish a cement factory at Surajpur so that we may not experience any difficulty in the supply of cement which we require in large quantity for the construction of Bhakra Dam and also for the new capital of the State. In order to start this factory we have asked for loan from the Government of India and as soon as it is available we shall take necessary steps in this direction. So far as the scheme of electricity is concerned, its proper planning has not yet been made as has been remarked by my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh and without the proper planning it will be difficult to say precisely as to how the electricity available from Bhakra and Nangal Projects will be utilized. The Government is, however, making survey of centres where industrial development can be as rapid as desired. Electricity can be employed for industrial, agricultural and domestic purposes. In order to give power from the Mandi Hydro Electric Project, it is intended to erect transmission lines up to Khanna. Service connections have been given to Ludhiana and Jullundur and two or three towns in Kangra district from Mandi Hydro Electric Project. Jammu and Kashmir Government has also made a request to this Government for the supply of electricity for Jammu and we have decided to provide electricity for Jammu as well. Government would be able to give 25,000 K.W. electricity released from Nangal Project to Delhi and also to the industrial townships proposed to be built up in the neighbourhood of certain towns in the Punjab. Work centres will also be supplied with electricity. Electricity from Nangal Project will be available in the year 1952. In the meantime electricity will be generated by means of thermal sets. These sets have been installed in Panipat, Sonipat and Jagadhri and these areas will be served with the electricity generated by these sets. It is also proposed to take electric

service up to Dehra Baba Nanak. Moreover, electricity is required for agricultural purposes for the area from Kangra to Khanna and we shall be able to serve this area with electricity. Similarly if we find it possible to erect transmission lines up to any place where electricity is required we shall do so as the Government is anxious to do planned development of the State.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Pandit Shri Ram has a grievance that his speech has not been replied to.

Chief Minister : Sir, I was mentioning that Government is keen on utilizing all the electricity available for the betterment of the State and now my hon. Friend has interrupted me that I have not replied to the objections raised by my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. (*Interruptions*). My two friends have answered each other.

Sardar Swaran Singh : So they are divided. (*Laughter*).

Chief Minister : It is the intention of the Government to reduce the quota of electricity supplied to Pakistan from 5,000 K. W. to 2,500 K. W. with effect from 31st March and to utilise the electricity so saved for our own purposes. If the electricity is not employed to the best advantage or if such power remains unconsumed, it will naturally entail loss to the Government. Our main difficulty is that we have no transmission lines which we are now trying to procure. The other handicap is that the motor transformers which we want to utilize for industrial and agricultural purposes are not available. We shall try to utilize 2,500 K.W. of energy and in that case we shall also be able to manufacture motor transformers. It is our plan and in pursuance of it we have suggested to some industrialists to set up factories for manufacturing consumers' goods and if they do so, it will be for the well-being of the State. It is also proposed to open an Engineering College for imparting technical education from October 1950. When we have so much of energy at our disposal we shall naturally stand in need of mechanical and electrical engineers. At present we do not possess sufficient number of such engineers. We have an adequate number of civil engineers. The House is perhaps aware that the Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Engineers whom we could not absorb after partition had to be accommodated elsewhere. And I am proud to say that the road from Pathankot to Jammu was constructed by the Punjab Engineers.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : The road that has been washed away?

Chief Minister : It is still there.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But they took full two years to build the Chaheru Bridge.

Chief Minister : The Chief Engineers of some of the States are Punjabis who have gone on deputation. In some, the Directors of Health Services are also Punjabis.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Chief Minister of Orissa is also a Punjabi.

Chief Minister : Ministers or Chief Ministers cannot be imported or exported as yet.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In case it be possible Chaudhri Sahib must be exported.

Chief Minister : Sir, I must make a mention of one thing.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : These are all false promises.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member has also been holding out such promises.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is true, but I have been surpassed. (*Laughter*)

Chief Minister : Sir, I wish to mention something which I consider very important. Some of my hon. Friends say that as I am an urbanite, I care more for the urban areas and ignore the villages. It is also said that I place greater burden of taxes on rural population than on the urban. These allegations are altogether unfounded. I can say that much greater expenditure in connection with the beneficent departments is incurred in villages than in the cities and it is but natural as a vast majority of our people live there. It is certainly wrong to distinguish between the urbanites and the ruralites. We are all Punjabis and it is the duty of every one of us to help each other. As true sons of free Bharat such a thing can ever be expected of us because it is only then that we can bring a good name to our great country. Sir, I remember the teachings of my Guru who showed me the right way in life. (*Shri Kedar Nath Saigal: But your Guru was displeased with you*). He told us that India lived in villages and not in cities. Cities according to him were set up by ambitious people who wanted not to serve others but themselves. I admit I live not in a village but in a town. But fortunately I have property neither in any village nor in any town and therefore am in a position to act upon the advice of my Guru who had an intense desire to help the villages. I have always tried to help the rural areas in my own way as they are a bit backward. It is our duty to help them at present. After they have come to the level of the urbanites, we shall all struggle together for the welfare of our great nation. I have no mind to take any more time of the House nor can I do so as it is almost time for adjournment.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Sir, I may be allowed to thank the Ministry for having made us capable of living in the villages.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think no speech is necessary by the hon. Member.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*), Sir, I have just a minute at my disposal and cannot say much. However I am sorry to observe that some very responsible Members have tried to create a rift between the urbanites and the ruralites or say the non-agriculturists and agriculturists. (*Interruptions*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** There should be no reflection on any hon. Member.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I don't mean to cast any aspersion on anybody.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, 16th March 1950.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

16th March 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber Simla at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FERRY RATES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1569 Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ferry rates at various *pattans* in the Amritsar district have been revised ; if so, since when and the result thereof ;
- (b) the ferry rates at these *pattans* before and after the revision of such rates ;
- (c) the income on this account at each of the *pattans* referred to above during April 1949 and January 1950 ?

The hon. Sbri Prithvi Singh Azad

- (a) Yes ; since 15th October, 1949. There will be considerable increase in the yield of the toll.
- (b) A statement giving these rates is laid on the table† ;
- (c) Except Harike ferry, all ferries are managed by the District Board, Amritsar, which leases collection of toll to the contractors. Monthly income cannot, therefore, be supplied in respect of these ferries. The income during April 1949 at Harike ferry was Rs. 1,094/5/-. The toll collection at this ferry was also leased out for five months upto 31-3-50 and therefore income for January, 1950 is not known.

FAMILY MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO DETENUS.

***1571. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether any rules regarding the grant of the family maintenance allowance by the detenues have been framed by the Government ; if so, the details thereof ;

†Kept in the library.

[S. Bachan Singh]

- (b) the main points which are taken into consideration while dealing with the applications of the detenus for the grant of family maintenance allowances ;
- (c) the number of the applications received from the detenus or their dependents for the grant of the family maintenance allowance upto 31-12-49 ;
- (d) the number of the cases in which this allowance was granted.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) Yes. The maximum maintenance allowance permissible to each woman dependent is Rs. 25/- P. M. and to each minor dependent Rs. 20/- P. M. subject to twenty percent increase per capita for dependents living in urban areas.
- (b) The financial condition and the sources of income of the family are taken into consideration.
- (c) 252.
- (d) 67.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the Government rejected the applications of those detenus who neither owned land nor had any source of livelihood ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is the hon. Member's point of view.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government while taking their financial condition into view also consider whether they own any or receive any rent of their houses. Does the Government take the other sources of their livelihood into consideration ?

Chief Minister : In part (b) of my answer I have said that we look to the financial condition and the sources of income of the family.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Are there any cases in which the applicants had some other sources of their livelihood ?

Chief Minister : I will make enquiries if notice is given to me.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : May I know whether detenus belonging to other parties such as Communist, Socialist, Akali and R. S. S. party are also included in the number of the detenus already referred to by the hon. Chief Minister in his reply ?

Chief Minister : I have given the number of the detenus.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : May I know if the same allowance already given to communist detenus would also be given to detenus belonging to other parties ?

Chief Minister : It is given to all.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government satisfied that dependents of these detenus who receive such allowances, have no other sources of livelihood ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for making enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government satisfy itself that when the detenus are in detention, their dependants can easily live on their income. Does the Government take into consideration the point as to how their dependants live ?

Chief Minister : Before granting any allowances Government take into consideration the other sources of their income if any.

Shri Virendra : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that the allowances granted to certain communist detenus are spent on party propaganda ?

Chief Minister : This question relates to family allowances to detenus. However if the hon. member gives fresh notice, enquiries will be made.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether the family allowance granted to detenus in our State is more or less than the allowances given in the other States ?

Chief Minister : It is comparatively more here than in other States.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the family allowance granted at present to detenus in our State is more or less than the allowance granted in the United Punjab to the political prisoners ?

Chief Minister : More allowance is granted to the detenus here in our State.

HEALTH OF COMMUNIST DETENU.

***1572. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether S. Arjan Singh, a communist worker of village Mari Kambo Ki, Tehsil Patti, Distt. Amritsar was arrested during the year 1948 under section 3 of the Punjab Public Safety Act and is still under detention ;
- (b) Whether S. Ram Singh "Ghalamala" of village Sultanwind, district Amritsar was also arrested and detained under the Punjab Public Safety Act a few months ago and is still under detention ;
- (c) whether S. Sohan Singh 'Josh' Ex-M.L.A. of village Chetanpura, Tehsil and District Amritsar was also arrested and thereafter detained under section 3 of the Punjab Public Safety Act ;
- (d) whether S. Narayan Singh of village Wadala, District Jullundur was arrested and thereafter detained under the Punjab Public Safety Act ;
- (e) whether S. Gurdip Singh of village Wadala, Tehsil and District Amritsar was arrested and thereafter detained under the above Act ;
- (f) whether S. Sohan Singh s/o S. Kishen Singh of village Naurangabad, district Amritsar was arrested and thereafter detained under the Punjab Public Safety Act ;

[S. Bachan Singh].

- (g) if the answer to parts (a) to (f) above be in the affirmative the weight of each one of the m on first admission to jail ;
- (h) the weight of each one of them in the month of January, 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) There is no communist detenu named Narain Singh of Bundala. However there was one Narinjan Singh of Bundala, who was arrested on 1-4-48 and released on 31-3-49.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Yes.

(g) & (h)...Name.	Weight on first admission.	Weight on 31-1-50
1. Arjan Singh	128 lbs. on 28-5-48	Refused to be weighed being on hunger-strike.
2. Ram Singh	138 lbs. on 1-9-48.	143 lbs.
3. Sohan Singh Josh	175 lbs. on 31-3-48	Refused to be weighed being on hunger-strike.
4. Not in detention	—	—
5. Gurdip Singh	155 lbs. on 20-5-48	189 lbs.
6. Sohan Singh s/o Kishen Singh.	128 lbs. on admission.	144 lbs.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Communist detenus who had gone on hunger strike and had refused to give it up, are still continuing it ?

Chief Minister : They are still on hunger strike.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : In view of the fact that the weight of the detenus is on the increase, may I know if Government has considered the necessity of reducing their allowances ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if measures of weight by which the detenus are weighed are the same which were used before 1947 ?

Chief Minister : The measures are the same.

SUMMONING OF SHREE NANAK CHAND NAZ**BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JULLUNDUR.**

***1620. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state, whether it is a fact that Shri Nanak Chand Naz, Editor of the Daily Parbhat was summoned by the Deputy Commissioner in December, 1949 and was asked not to publish a letter alleged to have been written by Pandit Jawahar Lall, Premier of India, to Dr. Gopi Chand the Chief Minister of the Punjab ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Shri Nanak Chand Naz was requested by the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, to contact him and he was simply told that if he published the letter he would do so at his own risk.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the D. C. asked him to contact him at the instance of the Government or at his own sweet will ?

Chief Minister : I regret I cannot disclose any secrets.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the D.C. can call any person and ask him to do or undo a certain thing even in such cases when the offences are not cognizable ?

Chief Minister : It is their duty to take any action they deem fit. It is also their duty to take legal action or even give a sort of warning.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was any offence going to be committed ?

Chief Minister : He knows it best who gave the warning.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government was informed later on. Did the Government realize that the D. C. had taken the suitable step as there was the likelihood of some offence being committed ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the action taken by the Government on the publication of that letter, despite the warning of the Deputy Commissioner ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government took any action on the publication of the letter, which came about in spite of the warning given to the Editor about the possibility of its dangerous consequences ?

Chief Minister : If any action had been taken the hon. Member would have known it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, how can we be automatically aware of every-thing that is done by the Government ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker** I cannot compel the Government.

RECRUITMENT TO SERVICES IN THE LOCAL BODIES,

***1366. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the latest position in the matter of new recruitment of services in the local bodies in the Province ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that no percentage to old local residents has been fixed upto this time for the purpose of the recruitment ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that such percentage in local bodies is deemed to be the same as in the Government services so far as the proportion of the local residents and refugees is concerned ;
- (d) whether Government has received any representation from the local municipal servants of Rewari, District Gurgaon complaining that they have not been adequately represented in these services ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) From the 26th November, 1949, vacancies which have occurred or may occur upto the 7th December, 1949, due to the migration, death or otherwise of Muslims are to be filled by refugees from West Punjab, preference being given to those who were employees of local authorities. Vacancies due to other causes are open but refugees are not debarred from being appointed to them : Provided that vacancies caused by the migration, etc., of Muslims are to be counted as such even if they have been filled in during the interval. There is no restriction in filling up the vacancies occurring after 7th December, 1949.
- (b) In view of the position given at (a) above there is now no need for fixing any percentage of old local residents for the purpose of recruitment ;
- (c) No.,
- (d) the representation received by Government from some local servants of the Municipal Committee Rewari is about their removal from service. Government are looking into the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the concession given to the refugees in the matter of appointments under the local bodies, have been stopped or are they continuing ?

Minister : I have already stated the position that obtains at present, in my reply. The desire of the Government is that 'preference should be given to displaced employees of local bodies.'

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What I want to know is whether there is any difference between the instructions now issued and those originally issued, in regard to this matter ?

Minister : Reply has already been given. I hope, the hon. Member can understand it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In the original instructions, it was made essential that all vacancies should be filled by appointing refugees. What I want to know is, if this is still obligatory in all cases ?

Minister : Formerly, the position was that all vacancies, whether caused due to the migration of Muslims or in any other way, must be given to refugees. Now the position is this. All vacancies caused by evacuation of Muslims have necessarily to be given to refugees but all other vacancies will be open to all.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if it has not been the result of the Government's previous instructions, that the percentage of old local residents in services under the local bodies has fallen very low.

Minister : No, we don't think so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Hon. Minister formed this idea on the basis of some facts and figures, or is this just a conjecture ?

Minister : Firstly, the Government has not received any such complaint. Secondly, from the facts and figures that are available, I can assure my friend, that more posts have been given to the local residents than what they ought to have and owing to the manoeuvrings of the local politicians, an injustice has been done to the refugees, who deserved better treatment at their hands.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what exactly the Hon. Minister means by 'than what they ought to have' ? Does this refer to some such principle as the reservation of posts on the basis of the ratio in the old and the new residents' population ?

Minister : What I meant by this phrase is this. All vacancies caused by the migration of Muslims and also those which had fallen vacant otherwise upto a certain date, as specified in the Government's instructions, ought to have been filled by appointing refugees. But owing to the manoeuvrings of the local people, of which Pandit ji must have some knowledge, all these posts were not given to the refugees, as desired by the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what steps did the Government take to make the manoeuvrings of the local people ineffective in this matter.

Minister : This was done in this manner. Appointments to posts carrying salary upto Rs. 150, were directed to be made subject to the approval of the Commissioners, and for those carrying higher salaries, sanction of the Government was made necessary.

DISMISSAL OF MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT BY GOVERNMENT

***1369. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Accountant Ram Niwas of Municipal Committee, Rewari (Gurgaon) has been dismissed directly by the Government ; if so, the allegations against him ;

[Pt. Shiv Ram Sharma].

- (b) whether any charge sheet was framed, against him, and was he given an opportunity to defend himself ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) No. He has been suspended for the present pending an enquiry against him.
- (b) Does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if this matter is still with the Deputy Commissioner, or has it passed that stage and is the final decision likely to be taken at an early date ?

Minister : Investigation in this matter was ordered again on the complaint of the Hon. Member himself. As he himself knows, the case is with the Deputy Commissioner and it would be better, if Pandit ji does not ask any more questions.

REPRESENTATION BY OVERSEERS IN IRRIGATION AND BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCHES.

***1370. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the overseers in the Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Branches of the P.W.D. have represented recently their case to the hon. Minister ;
- (b) the substance of their representation and the steps Government propose to take to meet their demand ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava —

- (a) Yes.
- (b) the substance of the representation is as under :—
- (i) their scale of pay be revised ;
 - (ii) 15-20 overseers should be brought on quasi permanent basis every year, till such time as vacancies in the permanent cadre of S.E.S. occur ;
 - (iii) promotion to P.S.E. Class II.
 - (iv) to enforce uniformity of procedure in respect of all classes of Establishment, regarding fixing their seniority,
 - (v) as regards the Engineering Overseers Association Irrigation Branch, their representation is
- (a) that promotion of overseers to officiating Sub-Divisional charge be made strictly in order of seniority except when a man has been debarred for inefficiency or similar other reasons.

As regards Engineering Overseers Association P.W.D. Buildings and Roads Branch, their representation is

- (a) that temporary overseers, unless debarred, should become permanent automatically after 5 years' continuous service.

The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the case of overseers has been under consideration for the last three or four years ?

Chief Minister : It has come to our notice only now.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the grade of pay of overseers is, as compared with other Government servants of the same status very unsatisfactory, both from the point of view of initial salary as well as the rate of annual increments ?

Chief Minister : Sir, it is a question of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the overseers, having been fed up with making representations have decided to wear black badge by way of protest on the occasion of the visit of any Minister ?

Chief Minister : They will do as they have been tutored.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Should we then take it that they are also in the habit of observing directions given by someone other than the Government, and giving them precedence over the instructions of the Government ?

Chief Minister : Though this should not happen, still there are some 'black sheep' who possess this habit.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that in 1947 when they were about to launch a strike, they were assured that their demands would be referred to the Pay Commission ? Are those officers also, who gave the assurance, to be counted among black sheep.

Chief Minister : The Pay Commission was constituted in 1946.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When the persons of the same cadre have been granted increments in other departments; may I know whether the question of grant of increment to these overseers is being postponed due to financial stringency or on any other excuse ?

Chief Minister : There is no question of excuse and my honourable friend may not treat it as such.

NOMINATION TO THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT BOARD.

***1429. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any members for the District Board at Amritsar were nominated by the Government during the 2nd half of 1949; if so, the list of the nominated members with their full home address and the date or dates of the notification regarding the nominations ;
- (b) whether the Government makes any enquiries from the district authorities concerned about the conduct and character of persons to be nominated in the local bodies ; if so, whether an enquiry was made by the Government in this case ;

[S. Sajjan Singh]

- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one of the nominated members was being tried in the court of a local Magistrate for certain alleged offences before his nomination and whether the case under sections 406 I. P. C. is still pending against him in the court of Shri Gosain Anand Sarup. 1st Class Magistrate, Amritsar and the next date for hearing is the 20th January, 1950 ;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that another of the nominated members before his nomination was also involved in a case for an embezzlement of Rs. 12,000/- which was registered against him at the Beas police station in the Amritsar district under section 406 I. P. C ;
- (e) Whether the case under section 406 I. P. C. referred to above in part (d) is still under investigation by the police ;
- (f) If the answers to parts (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative the reasons for nominating these persons to the District Board ;
- (g) whether before nominations were made the Amritsar district authorities were asked to send their recommendations ;
- (h) whether they made any recommendations and if so, the names of the gentlemen recommended by them for nomination ?

The Hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) Yes, the following three members were nominated vide Punjab Government notification No. 5984-LG49/69153, dated the 8th November, 1949.
 - (1) Giani Inder Singh of Village Lakhnwal, Tahsil Ajnala.
 - (2) S. Gurdial Singh Advocate, Amritsar C/O Sher-i-Bharat, Amritsar.
 - (3) S. Sant Singh, Ex-M. L. A. of Village Sultanwind, Tahsil, Amritsar.
- (b) (i) Not as a rule. (ii) No.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Government was not aware of these cases at the time of nominations.
- (g) Yes.
- (h) It is regretted that the Government cannot disclose the recommendations of the local officers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that out of the two persons who have been nominated as members of the District Board, Gurdaspur, one of them is a person whose name has been entered in Register No. 10 and the other one was involved in a dacoity case and sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to reply to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that one person who has been nominated as a member of the District Board, Gurdaspur, belongs to their own party ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No insinuation please. Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if these nominations have been made with the consultation of district authorities ?

Chief Minister : This question relates to Amritsar district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government make enquiries about the conduct and character of the persons to be nominated ; if so, whether this formality was observed at the time of making nominations to the District Board, Rohtak ?

Chief Minister : If any particular case is brought to the notice of the Government, the required information will be supplied to the honourable member. Sir, the question whether in certain cases any inquiry was made, my reply is that we will make enquiry if notice is given.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government would go on nominating persons in future without making such enquiry from the district authorities ?

Minister : No nominations are likely to be made hereafter till the next general elections. The old cases which are pending may, however, be considered.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know whether any nominations will be made to fill the seats of Hindus and Sikhs that are lying vacant in Jullundur ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : In view of part (b) of the question, is it a fact that no charges were proved against the persons whose cases were registered by the police ?

SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE, SUR SINGH.

*1430. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the seats vacated by Muslim evacuees in the Small Town Committee, Sur Singh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar have been filled by nominations ;
- (b) the names and full addresses of the persons nominated to fill up these vacancies ;

[S. Sajjan Singh]

- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one of the nominated members was guilty of getting temporary allotments of lands at two villages namely at V. Cheecha and Sur Singh and when this fact was brought to the notice of the district authorities, A. D. C., Amritsar after enquiry cancelled his allotment at V. Sur Singh during the year.

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (1) S. Lal Singh a Teacher in the local Middle School. He is a displaced person from the West Punjab.
- (2) S. Sartaj Singh, a displaced Lambardar from West Punjab, who has settled down at Sur Singh.
- (c) This fact has now come to the notice of Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government made any enquiry when these complaints were received by the Government ?

Minister : Inquiry is being made.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What will be the result of this enquiry ?

Minister : I cannot say about the result unless enquiry is completed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When the Government is aware of the fact that one of the nominated persons.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a general question, this question relates to one particular Small Town Committee.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If after enquiry it is found that the person so nominated tried to deceive the Government ; will the Government take any action against him ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a hypothetical question.

COLONIES FOR REFUGEES.

***1431. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- the names of the places in the Province where refugee colonies have been built so far ;
- the total cost borne by the Government on each of these Colonies ;
- the number of houses built in each of these Colonies ;
- the sale price of each house fixed by the Government in each of these colonies ;
- the total number of houses sold to the refugees in each colony up till 31-1-50 ;

- (f) the total number of the houses in each of these colonies which have not been disposed of upto 31-1-50 and the manner in which these houses are to be disposed of.

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : The answer to the question is placed on the table.†

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the prices of houses, particularly at Khanna, which could not be sold appreciate or depreciate ?

Minister : They are appreciating.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the Government sell these houses at enhanced prices in future.

Minister : Not to the refugees at any rate.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the houses could not be sold as they were badly built ?

Minister : It is not so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do the purchasers praise their houses ?

Minister : Excepting those who have made up their minds not to praise others do.

Shri Parbodh Chandra : Will the government continue to follow the old method of disposing of houses as was done in case of Rewari & Palwal or it has any idea of revising it ?

Minister : There was nothing wrong with the disposal at Rewari, only demand for houses was less there.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the Government prepare no estimates before building these houses ?

Minister : The houses are built on the basis of estimates which are invariably correct.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then why so many houses remain unsold ?

Minister : The hon. Member is wrong when he says that many houses remain unsold.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that houses have not been properly built at Rohtak.

Minister : It is not a fact.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh : Can Harijans also buy these houses ?

Minister : Certainly if they have money on them.

Shri Virendra : How much has the Government got from the sale of these houses ?

Minister : This question can be answered on notice.

Shrimati Sita Devi : As only 340 out of 500 houses at Jullundur have been sold, may I know how are the remaining houses being used ?

†Kept in the Library.

Minister : At present officers of the Government are living in them but in April these houses will also be auctioned.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are these houses being occupied by refugee officers or local men.

Minister : Refugees as well as local officers are living in them.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Will the hon. Minister please say whether officers living in these houses are paying rent according to Government rules ?

Minister : Certainly.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : What percentage is deducted from their salaries as rent.

Minister : The rent fixed for the houses is charged from them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What loss is likely to be incurred by government in investing rupees two crores and forty one lakhs in these houses ?

Minister : There is no likelihood of a loss.

CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

***1545. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the decision of the Government to build the Capital of the State at Chandigarh still stands or has been changed ;
- (b) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to expedite the building of the New Capital ?

The hon. Captian Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Yes, the decision of the Government to build the Capital of the State at Chandigarh stands.
- (b) To expedite the building of the New Capital, the Government have already had the site surveyed, collected materials required in initial stages, called tenders for the supply of bricks for building staff quarters, godowns etc., started trial boring operations for water supply and entrusted the work of preparing the Master Plan to the reputed American firm of Messrs. Mayer and Whittlesey”.

SANSKRIT DEGREES OF ACHARYA AND SHASTRI AND GRADES OF SANSKRIT TEACHERS

***1367. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that in some Universities in India the Sanskrit degrees of Acharya and Shastri are considered as at par with the M. A. and B. A. degrees respectively ;

- (b) whether he is also aware of the fact that Sanskrit Professors and Teachers are given the same grade as is given to those teaching other subjects ;
- (c) whether these matters mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above have so far come under the consideration of the Government ; if not, why not ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh.

- (a) Yes. The question of recognition of Shastri degree of Kashi Vidyapitha, Benaras, as at par with the B. A. degree is receiving the consideration of the East Punjab University.
- (b) The Sanskrit Lecturers and Professors in Government Colleges are already given the same grade as is given to those teaching other subjects. There is, however, no uniformity of salaries and grades of teachers in denominational colleges affiliated to the Punjab University.
- (c) (a) Yes.
- (b) The question of raising the grades and salaries and making them uniform in all the colleges is under consideration of Government.

For the information of the hon. Member I may add that at the instance of the University a Committee has been set up by the Government to go into the question. Its report will be submitted in due course.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government realise that after attainment of independence there is necessity of encouraging Sanskrit ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is the view of the hon. Member.

Minister : The Government will encourage Sanskrit.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government merely intend to encourage Sanskrit or has it done something in that direction ?

Minister : The Government is considering the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does it mean that the Government is still considering this matter and has done nothing so far in this connection ?

Minister : The Government has received some requests and these are receiving due attention.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that in the Colleges, professors of Sanskrit are paid lower salaries than those paid to the professors of English ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That does not arise out of this question.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know if persons holding the degrees of Acharya and Shastri are eligible for appointment as professors in the University ?

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Now that the Government has decided to encourage Sanskrit education, may I know the number of affiliated and other Sanskrit colleges in the state ?

Minister : I can't say if there is any Sanskrit College in the state but I can tell the hon. Member that it is taught in a large number of Colleges and the Government is taking steps for its encouragement.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is there any arrangement for the teaching of Sanskrit in Oriental College, as in the united Punjab ?

Chief Minister : That College is run by the University.

CULTIVATION OF WASTELANDS IN REWARI

***1868. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that in 1872 one Lala Rampat Jain was given a very large plot of land in Rewari, District Gurgaon for Agricultural development by the Government free or at a nominal price ;
- (b) how much out of this land is lying waste now ;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to bring this and other waste lands in Rewari under cultivation ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes ; in 1853 L. Rampat Jain was given absolute biswadari rights on account of his being an efficient farmer and prompt payer of land revenue.
- (b) 1042 acres.
- (c) under the utilization of land Act passed recently, the Collector will take necessary action to put this land under plough if it is cultivable.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If some land was given to this gentleman for agricultural development but it was found that most of it remained undeveloped, how far is the Government responsible in this connection ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is a question of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I was submitting, Sir, that the Government had stated that the land was given for development. Now it has been admitted that it was not developed. May I know, how far the Government regards itself responsible in this matter, and if not, why not ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government prepared to give land for development to other persons also ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker ;** Next question please. This is a hypothetical question.

CENTRES FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION AND REMOVAL OF ADULT ILLITERACY.

***1467. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government has started any centres for Social Education and for the removal of adult illiteracy in the state ; if so, at what places and in what form ;
- (b) whether the Central Government placed certain funds at the disposal of the Punjab Government for the year 1949-50, for Social Education on certain conditions ; if so, whether these conditions were fulfilled and the funds availed of ;
- (c) the number of adults made literate through (i) official agency (ii) non-official agency in the state ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) A list of the places where Social Education Centres have been started is laid on the table†. These centres are in the form of night schools.
- (b) A sum of Rs. 2 lacs has been received from the Government of India for the implementation of the scheme of Social Education on the general condition that the Provincial Government contributes in three years commencing from 1949-50, an amount equal to the subvention received from the Central Revenues. The expenditure is being incurred with the consent of the Provincial Government.
- (c) The new Social Education centres have been started too recently to achieve any results yet, but the old type of adult centres which are also part of the scheme now have made 1717 adults literate through official agency and 3286 through non-official agency.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How much money has the Government spent so far, out of the funds received from the Government of India and those of its own ?

Minister : The money has to be spent in three years.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How much has been spent up till now ?

Minister : I am sorry, the day-to-day expenditure can not be determined.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I wish to know the amount of money spent by the Government, so far, on such an important subject as this.

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Can the hon. Minister tell me how many M.L.As have benefitted from this scheme of adult education ? *(laughter)*

† Kept in the Library.

TAHSILDARS AND NAIB TAHSILDARS.

***1472. Shri Dev Raj [Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the names and places of residence of persons who have been appointed Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars with effect from the 1st of April, 1948 in the Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : One 'B' Class Tahsildar Candidate, Bakhshi Harbans Lal belonging to Rawalpindi division has been accepted in this State. No Naib Tahsildar candidate has been appointed from and after the 1st April, 1948.

NATIONALIZATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT.

***1544. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether Government propose nationalization of the road transport industry in the state ? If so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Please refer to reply to question No. †1493 and the statement made by the hon. Premier.

OMNIBUS SERVICE IN AMRITSAR AND JULLUNDUR DISTRICTS.

***1570. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Omnibus Service is being plied on routes in the rural areas in the Amritsar and Jullundur Districts respectively ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the income earned from each route during the month of January, 1950 ;
- (c) the total amount invested by the Government on the aforesaid service, in each of the districts mentioned above upto 31-1-50.
- (d) the date since when the service in each district is being run ;
- (e) the average establishment charges including officer's pay and workshops expenditure incurred by Government in each of these districts from 1-4-49 to 31-1-50 ;
- (f) the average income in each of the aforesaid districts from 1-4-49 to 31-1-50 ;
- (g) the monthly salary and other allowances respectively of each of the General Managers and their senior Assistants in each of the above mentioned districts ;
- (h) the monthly salary and other allowances of each of the officers incharge of the workshops in each of the above-mentioned districts ;
- (i) the mechanical qualifications of each of the officers incharge of the workshops in each of these districts ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

- (a) Yes.

†Vide Debates of 8-3-1950.

(b) **JULLUNDUR OMNIBUS SERVICE.**

1. City Railway Station to Kartarpur	Rs. 7,748/5/-
2. Adda Nakodar and Lambra	Rs. 5,789/6/-
3. Adda Nakodar and King Sabu	Rs. 470/15/-
4. City Railway Station to Adampur	Rs. 2,375/9/-
5. Distt. Courts and Kapurthala	Rs. 8,456/8/-
6. Jullundur and Amritsar	Rs. 7,889/9/-
7. City Railway Station to Phagwara	Rs. 1,328/10/-

AMRITSAR OMNIBUS SERVICE.

1. Hall Gate to Verka	Rs. 3,718/11/-
2. Hall Gate to Jandiala	Rs. 7,533/14/-
3. Railway Station to Raja Sansi	Rs. 8,460/7/-
4. Hall Gate to Border	Rs. 7,566/2/-
5. Hall Gate to Chhabhal	Rs. 7,359/12/-
6. Chatiwind to Taran Tarn	Rs. 17,951/13/-
7. Ram Bagh to Majitha	Rs. 7,998/9/-
8. Railway Station to Chheharta Town	Rs. 7,573/3/-

	Jullundur	Amritsar
(c)	Rs. 4, 65, 205/6/-	Rs. 4, 57, 219/4/9-
(d)	21-5-48,	14-12-48.
(e) Total	Rs. 1, 96, 339/1/-	Total Rs. 2, 14, 392/2/:
Monthly Average	Rs. 19, 634/-	Monthly average : Rs. 21, 439/-
(f) Total	Rs. 7, 91, 821/11/6	Total : 9, 63, 272/-
Monthly average	Rs. 79, 182/-	Monthly average : Rs 96, 327/-
(g) General Manager's Salary	Rs. 625/	General Manager's : Salary : Rs. 650/-
Allowances	Rs .85/-	Allowances : Rs 85/-
Works Manager's Salary:	Rs. 370/-	Works Manager's : Salary Rs. 370
Allowances	Rs. 90/-	Allowances Rs. 90/-.
(h) Works Manager : salary	Rs. 370/-	Works Manager's : Salary : Rs. 370/-
Allowances	Rs. 90/-	Allowances Rs. 90/-
(i) Matric, Punjab, and certificate in Auto- mobile Engineering from Govt. Engi- neering School, Nagpur.		Matric, Pb. and Diploma in Motor Engineering from F. M. C. Calcutta (first class)

TARO ALIAS TARA DEVI.

***1463. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a Hindu girl named Taro alias Tara Devi of Basti Danishmandan, Jullundur, was taken away as a Muslim girl to the Camp in May 1949 and has not been returned so far ;
- (b) What action, if any, was taken on the representation made by the public to responsible officers of the Government, for the return of Tara Devi ;
- (c) Whether the Superintendent of Police, posted on this duty, was satisfied that Taro was a Hindu girl and reported to that effect to the authorities ;
- (d) Whether the attention of the Government was drawn to this matter by the Press ;
- (e) What action, if any, the Government proposes to take in this connection ;
- (f) The present whereabouts of the girl ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Enquiries made reveal that Mst : Taro Alias Tara Devi is a Muslim girl.

- (b) Exhaustive enquiries have already been made, leading up to the result as in part (a).
- (c) No. The Superintendent of Police of Recovery Staff is convinced that Mst : Taro is a Muslim girl.
- (d) The press has drawn the attention of Government to an incorrect version published by interested persons.
- (e) In view of (a) above, no further action is necessary.
- (f) The girl is at present in the Kashmiri Women home in Amritsar.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it not a fact that evidence was produced and it was proved that she is a Hindu girl and was married to a Hindu ? Did not the Government officer admit that a mistake had been committed in bringing her to Camp ?

Minister : The enquiry revealed that she is a Muslim girl. If the hon. Member is in possession of any new facts, he should bring those to the notice of the Government.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Did the hon. Minister think so even before he became a minister or has formed this opinion after joining the Cabinet ?

Minister : Some people thought that she was a Hindu girl. I enquired into the matter and came to the conclusion before becoming a Minister, that she was Mohanmadan. Official enquiry also revealed the same thing.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Who conducted the enquiry and where and when was it held ?

Minister : I can't say who made this enquiry but it was conducted in Amritsar and Jullundur.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that this girl was removed as a Muslim girl on account of party strife in Basti Danishmandan ?

Minister : After enquiry it was established that she is a Muslim girl. She is still in Amritsar and if the hon. Member has any doubt, he can go and enquire from her.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Was the enquiry conducted at Basti Danishmandan or at Amritsar ?

Minister : As I have submitted, thorough enquiry was made into the matter.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : What religion does the girl profess according to her own statement ?

Minister : In the beginning the girl said that she was Hindu but afterwards in the course of enquiry she admitted that she was Muslim.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the hon. Minister is prepared to conduct further enquiries into this matter ?

Minister : The girl is yet in Indian territory ; she is at Amritsar in the Kashmiri Women Home. She will be sent to Pakistan only if the hon. Member satisfies himself after enquiring from the camp otherwise she will be detained.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know if anybody, may be Member of Assembly, is allowed to conduct an enquiry of this nature in a camp ?

Minister : If a gentleman is not satisfied, he is allowed to convince himself after an enquiry.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that under the Inter Dominion Agreement, such enquiries can be made jointly by the representatives of both the Dominions ?

Minister : Yes, I know that such an agreement exists. But if there is doubt that a Hindu or sikh girl is being sent, I am prepared to go beyond the limits of the agreement. (cheers)

ALLOTMENT OF CINEMA HOUSES LEFT BY MUSLIM EVACUEES.

***1548 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation to please state :—

- (a) the number of Cinema Houses left in the Punjab by the Muslim Evacuees ;
- (b) the number of such Cinema Houses that have been allotted refugees ;
- (c) the rent at which these Cinema houses have been allotted ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Six

(b) No cinema has been allotted to any displaced person so far. The position with regard to each cinema is briefly as under :—

- (1) Two cinemas, both at Jullundur, are incomplete.
- (2) One cinema at Jullundur. (Chitra talkies) is under mortgage with possession with a local man.

(3) In the case of fourth cinema (Hari Palace) at Jullundur, a Civil Court has decreed the claim of the local person but the Custodian is challenging the order of the Court. The matter is under consideration.

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

(4) Fifth cinema (Empire Talkies) at Pathankot is being run by the non-Muslim co-sharer.

(5) In the sixth cinema (Naulakha Talkies) at Ludhiana, a 1/6th share is owned by a non-evacuee. Under orders originally of the District Judge and later of the High Court the cinema in question could not be allotted. The High Court recently vacated its orders and it is hoped, in consultation with the owner of the one sixth share who has filed a suit for partition, to start the working of the cinema in two or three weeks time.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the Government has been approached by any persons who are willing to start the two incomplete cinemas at Jullundur, after completing them?

Minister : Yes, a number of persons are willing to run them. But, under the Inter Dominion Agreement, sale or exchange of evacuee property can be made. Unless this question of evacuee property is settled, we do not want to put anybody to unnecessary trouble by giving him those cinemas.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know if the Government is thinking of nationalising cinemas, in view of their being a source of great income?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government is still hopeful of arriving at any agreement with Pakistan on this issue of evacuee property?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is a general question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government is prepared to dispose of Naulakha Cinema at Ludhiana in which 5/6th share is owned by evacuees?

Minister : Nothing has been decided so far. If the sixth partner is prepared to purchase it, it will be handed over to him and if he is not willing to do so, the Government would lease it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; May I know if any tenders would be invited for leasing out of that cinema?

Minister : Yes, tenders will be invited.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if in view of the fact that the Government has failed in all business undertakings so far, it is not prepared to take up this cinema?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is a question of opinion and also a suggestion.

(It being 2.55 P. M. of the clock, Mr. Speaker called Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur to put her short notice question)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir. Previously we used to have short notice questions after the first hour reserved for questions. May I know why a departure is being made today?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The rules permit both ways.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Won't it be better if we utilise the whole of the first hour for ordinary questions and put the short notice questions after that?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Very well.

**ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN SULTAN WIND AND NAUSHEHRA
NANGLE.**

***1573. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of land under the quasi permanent scheme at villages Sultan Wind and Naushehra Nangle Tehsil and District Amritsar has been completed ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid villages have been declared Urban and Sub-urban areas respectively under the aforesaid scheme ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the evacuee land in these villages have been allotted to the owners of Urban and Sub-urban areas in Pakistan ; if so, the list of persons to whom lands in these villages have been allotted with the following particulars:

(1) The area owned by each one of them in Pakistan towns ;

(2) The area allotted to each of them in these villages ;

(d) whether the allottees mentioned in part (c) (2) above have been fitted in their area of allocation ;

(e) whether any of the allottees mentioned in part (c) (2) above belonged to non-urban and non suburban areas in Pakistan, if so, the reasons for allotting him in these villages ;

(f) the total area allotted to local colonists in these villages separately ;

(g) the names of those allottees and the area allotted to each one of them who are neither local colonists nor temporary allottees, within the area of their allocation nor persons mentioned in part c (ii) above and the reasons for allotment to them in those villages ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

(a) Yes.

(b) part of village Sultan Wind is urban and the remaining area is Sub-urban, whereas village Naushehra Nangle is neither urban nor Sub-urban.

(c) allotment of urban lands has not so far been made. Lists giving the information asked for are placed on the table.*

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. In two cases sitting allottees were allowed to continue after being subjected to the additional valuation. One of them held land in common with evacuees.

(f) allotment has been made to only local colonists. Area in Naushehra Nangle 68—8½ Standard acres,

Sultan Wind. 301—3¾ Standard acres.

(g) no area has been allotted to any person other than local Colonists or sitting allottees.

*Kept in the Library.

RETAIL DEALERS LICENCE.

***1872. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the retail dealers licence of Messrs Prithi Raj Mool Chand of Rohtak was suspended for 3 months and that a security of Rs. 500/- was demanded from the firm; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the number of other cloth dealers of Rohtak who were punished together with the nature of offences committed by them ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes. The firm was suspected of having blackmarketed cloth along with certain other retail dealers and had contravened the provisions of the East Punjab Cotton Cloth Dealers Licensing Order, 1948.
- (b) Nine. All these licencees were also suspected of having blackmarketed the cloth and had contravened the provisions of the said Order, by issuing cash memos in bogus names and under forged signatures.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Minister aware that Messrs Prithi Raj Mool Chand were punished on the basis of allegation of having issued bogus receipts for the sale of cloth to a certain person ? May I know if the person in whose name the receipt was issued gave any statement ? Moreover is it not a fact that the whole matter was brought to the notice of the Civil Supplies Officer in the presence of a member of the Assembly ?

Minister : Thank you for the information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that, in spite of the high-handedness of the Civil Supplies Department in this case and in spite of the fact that higher authorities were also informed, nothing has been done to undo the wrong ?

Minister : It was found after a departmental enquiry that the persons had committed an offence and that is why they were punished.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**PROPOSED SCHEME OF THE IMPROVEMENT TRUST AMRITSAR.**

***1896. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that great anxiety prevails amongst the owners of property which is likely to be affected by the proposed scheme of the Improvement Trust Amritsar ;
- (b) whether any petition has been submitted to the Government by the owners of property round about Katra Jaimal Singh and Chauk Farid, Amritsar, to stop the Improvement Trust, Amritsar from proceeding with their scheme which affects this property ; if so, what steps, the Government has taken in this connection ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes ;

- (b) Yes ; a copy of the petition has been forwarded to the Chairman, Amritsar Improvement Trust for giving due consideration to the objections raised by the owners of property.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE CHAUDAL.

***1943. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the lands of some 24 Muslim owners of village Chaudal, tehsil Jhajjar, district Rohtak, whose fathers and predecessors were killed in the village during the communal disturbances of 1947, have been deprived of their lands, and these lands have been allotted to refugees ;
- (b) Whether it is also a fact that their repeated requests and representations to the authorities concerned were not entertained?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No. Applications were duly considered and rejected.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I can give the names of those persons, if you like. Injustice has been done to them.

Minister : For the information of the House I can say that as a question of policy a date was fixed for the census of the displaced persons. On that date these persons might have been absent. At that time they might have been either in Pakistan or in any other state outside Punjab.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I inform the hon. Minister that these persons never left their village even for a moment ?

Minister : I assure the House that an enquiry will be made and if these facts are found correct the persons mentioned here will get land.

UNCULTIVATED EVACUEE LAND IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***1946. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of acres of evacuee land which have remained uncultivated in Hissar District during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949 ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that thousands of acres of evacuee land have remained uncultivated in the Hissar District ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government issued clear instructions to all Deputy Commissioners to the effect that all available cultivable evacuee land must be brought under cultivation ; if so, the reasons why these instructions of the Government were not carried out in the Hissar District ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

- (a) and (b) The exact figures are not available and it is considered that the time and labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.
- (c) Yes. The reasons for non-cultivation of the area that remained uncultivated are the non-availability of irrigation facilities to which the temporary allottees are accustomed and failure of timely rains.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know why these instructions of the Government were not carried out. If such is the state of affairs in respect of those illaqa from which three Ministers are sitting on Government benches what might be the condition of other illaqa ?

Minister : Instructions were issued. But due to a number of reasons beyond control some land, of course could not be brought under cultivation. But now after permanent allotment we will make arrangements to see that all cultivable land is brought under cultivation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. Yesterday the hon. the Chief Minister while winding up the general discussion of the Budget said that I had compared Mr. Sharma with Rasputin. It is not a fact. What I said was that it was being felt by the people that just as Rasputin was a *de facto* ruler of Russia during the days of the Czar so is Mr. Sharma here these days.

Mr. Speaker : You said certain things about a certain person and you are repeating the same now. What is the point of personal explanation, I ask.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir I never compared Mr. Sharma with Rasputin what I said was that as Rasputin was the *de facto* ruler in Russia so is Mr. Sharma these days in the Punjab. I did not say that Mr. Sharma is.....

Mr. Speaker : Next item please.

RESOLUTIONS.

(ELECTION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICER)

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh. (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I rise on a point of order. My submission is that the resolution which stands in the name of Mehta Ranbir Singh is not in order. It contravenes the provisions of the Constitution of India. In this connection I refer you to Section 315 of the Constitution wherein it is provided that the Governor shall appoint a Public Service Commission for the appointment of services in the State. By this resolution my friend Mr. Mehta proposes that an officer may be elected on the basis of adult franchise. My contention is that the services of a State are to be appointed by the Public Services Commission which in its turn is to be appointed by the Governor. So far as the elections are concerned under the Constitution there is provision only for elections to the legislature. After the elections the Governor has to appoint his Chief Minister and the other Ministers are to be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. So it is clear that there is no provision for the election of such an officer either on the executive side or the legislative side. Therefore, the resolution given notice of by my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh contravenes the provisions of the Constitution which are mandatory.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : With regard to the objections raised against the resolution by my hon. Friend, Sardar Shiv Saran Singh, my submission is that in a way he is challenging the Ruling of the Chair because.....

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should move the resolution. I overrule the objection raised by Sardar Shiv Saran Singh.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General Rural) (*Hindi*)
Sir I beg to move :—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps at an early date for the election of an Anti-Corruption officer in the State on the basis of adult franchise with powers to organise a suitable machinery for anti corruption drive, to suspend and recommended to the Government departmental action or dismissal of any Government employee found by him to be guilty of corruption.

Sir, I moved two resolutions in this House on two previous occasions also. The House is aware that both of them were unanimously passed without any amendments.

Sardar Swaran Singh : You were then the member of this party.

An hon. Member : Now he is a deserter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I hope that the honourable Members will think over the present resolution in right earnestness. They will also try to feel their responsibilities as members of this august House. They should try to go deep into the truth of what I am going to say.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, is it not a dis-respect to the House.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order Order. I won't permit the hon. Member to make any remarks which are derogatory.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, you have given your ruling without hearing me. I only wanted to submit that an important resolution is under discussion. Is it not dis-respect to the House that the hon. Minister-in-charge is absent from the House ?

✓ **Mr Speaker :** I see two hon. Ministers in their seats.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : They are non-entities.

Hon. Members : Withdraw, Withdraw.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The words used by the hon. Member are objectionable. He should withdraw these remarks.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I withdraw.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I was going to submit as to why it became necessary for me to bring forward this resolution, what its significance is, why this august House should accept and then afterwards give it a practical shape by enacting a law, on the subject. Sir, it is common knowledge that we may provide fool proof schemes to the Government but unless and until the Government make their administration corruption proof, our State cannot make any headway in the domain of administrative efficiency. I rather feel that no progress is possible in any sphere of Governmental activity, if corruption is rampant in the administration. I am sure hon. Members are fully aware of the extent to which corruption is prevalent in their constituencies. They can realise how this evil has entered into the very flesh and blood of the administration. I think corruption has ever been on the increase after partition of the country in August, 1947. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that when we first met in the Viceregal Lodge, I pointed in one of my speeches that corruption should be considered as public enemy No. 1.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is making a mis-statement. There was no Viceregal Lodge after August, 1947. It was Governor General's Lodge. (Laughter)

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I was submitting that corruption should be considered as public enemy No. 1.

Minister For Public Works : On a point of information, Sir. Since when has the hon. member begun to think in that way? (*Laughter*)

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Well, Sir, then I appealed to the Government that after the attainment of Independence, if we wanted to see our small province flourish, we would have to make every endeavour to extirpate the evil of corruption root and branch, from the administration. But I am constrained to remark that this appeal fell flat on the ears of the Government and when I look to the state of affairs obtaining in the State, I am compelled to say 'Doctor heal thyself'.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : You better heal yourself.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If you come to my laboratory, I will heal you.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the hon. Members not to interrupt him? If they continue to do so, he will be getting more time to speak because they would be feeding him with their interruptions to which he would be tempted to reply.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I submit that if the Government had made any effort to eradicate the evil of corruption, then perhaps the necessity of moving this resolution might not have arisen. But may I ask every hon. Member of this House to say with all sincerity whether the condition of the State was not such as to cause anxiety. If they refer to the speeches made by them during this session, they could recollect what their feelings were on the subject.

Mr. Speaker : Previous proceedings of the session cannot be referred to.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Hon. Members know full well, that corruption has permeated into every walk of life in the State. The administration has become so rotten that the confidence of the public in the Government has been shaken. I have no mind to ascribe responsibility of corruption to any particular officer or the hon. Minister. But when the position as a whole is reviewed, one's confidence in the ability of the Government to root out this evil is rudely shaken. Now-a-days the state of affairs is such that it is well nigh impossible for a person to get justice if he has no money in his pocket, or if he cannot secure a sifarish. As a matter of fact justice has become very expensive. In this connection I may point out that only a few days ago in a meeting of the Amritsar Municipality, it was hotly but seriously discussed to fix up fees for every item of work which the public could get done on payment being compelled to offer illegal gratification to the employees. It is common without knowledge that now a days it is almost impossible to get work, however legitimate, out of the employees without first greasing their palms. You will see, Sir, to what dangerous extent corruption has increased in the State. So my submission is that owing to their pusillanimity, the Government have signally failed to curb this evil during the last 2½ years. The demon of corruption has been getting ever strong. I feel that with a view to overcome this evil and to bring about a radical change in the outlook of the administration, Government will have to take radical measures. And the resolution which I have sponsored suggests such a measure. I am of the opinion that we should treat corruption as a national enemy. I would request the hon. Members not to make it a party question but view this problem from the larger interests of the State. They should not demur in the eradication of the evil

of corruption even if they feel that any of their relations will come to trouble as a result of this drive. They should rather think in this way that if corruption was allowed to continue unabated, then our hard won independence would be reduced to a mockery, and all beneficent schemes of the Government would remain as paper schemes as it would not be possible to translate them into action due to the prevalence of corruption. Thus the progress of our State would be thwarted for all time to come. In this connection I would like to say a few things more. Sometime ago the Government appointed anti-corruption staff in connection with the Quasi Permanent Allotment of lands. Only a few days back a report on the working of that Anti-corruption Department was handed over to us. Then Interpellations regarding the work of the anticorruption staff were also made to elicit information about its activities. One of the hon. Ministers stated that the anti-corruption staff had brought about 44 cases of corruption to the notice of the Government. But I am constrained to say that the Government incurred a huge expenditure on the establishment of this department but when after prolonged investigation it reported a number of cases to Government for action, the latter did not pay proper heed to the matter. Not a single case was registered for prosecution. Now what inference would the people draw from this inaction of the Government? Naturally they would think that Government has no mind to proceed against the corrupt persons. If the Government had dealt with these cases with a strong hand, inflicting thereby severe punishment on the guilty people, then this would have enhanced its reputation in the eyes of the public. The public at large would have begun to entertain hopes that after all Government had shaken off their lethargy in the matter of curbing corruption. If you just peruse the report, you will find that action has mostly been recommended against smaller fry for instance, patwaris, quanguoes etc. and if higher officers have been reported against, then the Government have shielded them by ordering departmental enquiries. May I ask what good is to accrue to Government for spending a large amount of money on anti-corruption staff, if they have only to ignore the recommendations of this department and take no action on them? Then I have no desire to enter into personalities but I cannot help saying that the Government have not been serious towards the eradication of the evil of corruption. They should give their serious thought to this matter and put an end to this evil.

Then, Sir, a matter came before the House for discussion and it was with regard to the killing of the monkeys harmful animals. We found that the hon. Minister in charge discriminated between the monkeys, of Ambala district and those of Simla, particularly those roaming about his bungalow and sitting around him. (*Laughter*). While the former were ordered to be put to death, the latter were to be let off and enjoy life.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But now those monkeys have come to the Hotel where the hon. Member is putting up. (*Laughter*).

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister came to the Grand Hotel day before yesterday and he knows better. I have no intention to make any allegations against any hon. Minister. When the hon. Ministers discriminate among monkeys, how can you expect them not to discriminate among Government employees? However I would like to quote the reply given by the hon. Chief Minister in reply to a certain question regarding the action the Government proposed to take against those M.L.As who resorted to unfair means for harassing the Government servants. His reply is as follows :—

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Against whom are we to take action? They are part and parcel of the machinery of the Government. Action is called for against those who instead of remaining with it, have thought it preferable to leave it.

After all what good can we expect from a Government which is not prepared to take any action against a person who has committed theft or dacoity but is instead out to take action against people belonging to an opponent's party?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it not a case of guilty conscience blaming others?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Permits to indulge in corruption may have been issued by the Government just in the same manner. But so far as I am concerned, I do not know anything about it as I never applied for any permit. If the Government adopts such policy, then I am sure it will not be able to root out corruption in our State. I am of the opinion that if a person who is guilty of corruption is not punished by the Government simply because he is related to some hon. Minister in some way or the other or he himself happens to be a Member of the party in power, then this practice would result in encouraging corruption rather than checking it; I am of the opinion that there should be no discrimination whatsoever while dealing with the cases in connection with corruption. It is really no use to hope that the Government in general and the hon. Ministers in particular will make all out efforts to root out corruption when they themselves are not inclined to take action against those influential persons who have resorted to corruption and bribery and who have been promised all possible help to defend them and save them and who in return have also pledged their support to them.

There is no doubt about it that there is no law under which we can ask the Government to hold elections. In fact it is the bounden duty of the Government to hold elections in connection with the appointment of Anti-corruption Officer. It is also its duty to bring in legislation and pass it into law. My hon. Friends know it full well that a resolution in connection with the consolidation of holdings was unanimously passed in the House and it became then the duty of the Government to bring in this very resolution in the form of a Bill in the House. It has been decided by the Government to introduce the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketting Bill during this session and I do not find any reason why Government should hesitate to bring in a legislative measure in connection with anti-corruption. If it is not possible to do so during this session, it can be done during the next session. Government should not hesitate to bring in such a legislative measure if it really intends to liquidate corruption in the State. If the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketting Bill is going to be introduced in the House shortly, may I know the reason why an Anti-corruption Bill should not be brought in during the next session after adopting the Resolution now before the House. It will not be out of place to mention here that the Resolution now before the House is based upon two fundamental principles. Those of my hon. Friends who believe the general public as their masters should not fear at all by this Resolution. They should bear in mind that corruption is one of our national enemies. If and when this resolution would be placed before the House in the form of a Bill, at that time my hon. Friends would get an opportunity to discuss all the pros and cons of the matter.

It is said that the election of an Anti-corruption officer would involve heavy expenditure. I do not want that the election should be held immediately. If it is really the intention of the Government to hold election,

then this can be done at the time of holding the general elections which are also going to be held on the basis of adult franchise, when the choice of the Anti-Corruption Officer would be printed on a separate ballot paper.

M. Speaker : By the words, "At an early date" the hon. Member means "at the time of elections".

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir we cannot expect anything prompt from the present Government which has not so far taken any step in connection with the Consolidation of Holdings about which a resolution was passed unanimously here in this House. If it is the intention of the Government to eliminate corruption, then an Anti-corruption Bill can be brought in during the next session. Here I cannot do without saying that our Government should learn a lesson from the happenings in China and Japan where no attention was paid to root out corruption, which was the order of the day over there. If we do not rise to the occasion and make all out efforts to wipe out corruption, I am sure we cannot make any progress in any direction. Poor people are suffering untold hardships on account of corruption prevailing at present in every nook and corner of our State. While the authorities are fiddling, poor people are being oppressed for no fault on their part. If adequate steps are not taken in time, I am sure the present policy of the Government will have very bad repercussions in due course.

Now the question arises as to what should be the qualifications of the Anti-Corruption Officer. Certain restrictions shall have to be imposed upon the candidates who wish to fight elections. The person thus elected should not be a leader of any party nor should he have any concern with any political party. As I have already stated that corruption should be considered to be a national enemy, the candidates should not belong to any party. It will not be out of place to mention here that such Anti-Corruption Officers are to be found in many other countries, and there also we find certain restrictions being imposed upon the candidates. The minimum qualification of a candidate should be this that he must have worked as a Session Judge or a Judge of the High Court or a Law Graduate of at least 10 years standing.

Sir, in my opinion, this Government should not have any objection to this resolution being adopted by the House. On the other hand it should be passed unanimously and a Bill based on it should be brought before the House as early as possible. If the evil of corruption is rooted out of this province, it will be all to the advantage of the Ministers, who have to face scathing criticism and sometimes abuses and curses owing to its prevalence. Any opposition by them will strengthen the charge of those who say according to a punjabi saying. ਜੂਠਾ ਮਿਠੇ ਦੇ ਲਾਲਚ ਵਿਚ ਖਾਧਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ ਜੂਠਾ ਮਿਠੇ ਦੇ ਲਾਲਚ ਵਿਚ ਖਾਧਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਏ We want to lighten their burden of responsibilities. The task of eradication of this evil may safely be entrusted to a responsible and popularly elected person, who enjoys the fullest confidence of the people, so that the Ministers may be able to devote their whole attention to constructive work. The machinery that will be set up by the Anti-Corruption Officer, as proposed in my resolution, will not be a sort of parallel Government. Though it will function independently, it will send its findings to the Government, recommending the action that it would like to be taken in a particular case of corruption. It may not be vested with powers to take action against the corrupt officials independently of the Government. But surely there is no reason why there should be any objection to giving the popularly-elected officer powers to form his own machinery consisting of dependable and honest persons. After all people are the source and fountain-head of all power, and if any persons deriving their strength and support from the people are asked

[Metha Ranbir Singh]

to organize the anti-corruption machinery, why should they be looked at with suspicious eyes? I would compare a Ministry to a pool of water, which remains fresh and full owing to its continual contact with the perennial fountain—the source of all power and strength. I mean the 'Demos' who is the real ruler of the country. But when the pool as the present one loses contact with the fountain, stagnation and ultimately drought is bound to come. If the Government will not keep contact with the masses and take steps to ensure their confidence in it, it will meet the fate of the pool in China to which I have just referred.

Sir, I once again ask the basic question. If the Government is really earnest about the eradication of corruption and at the same time wants to have the fullest support and confidence of the people in the solution of this problem, why does it fight shy of accepting my proposal? I would urge it to assure the House that just as it is bringing, Prevention of Blackmarket Bill before the House, it will also bring an anti-corruption bill incorporating all the constructive suggestions that will be made to-day by the Hon. Members of this House, whom I would request not to view this matter from a narrow angle of vision. It is not a matter for party politics. It is a problem of national import. Our country, our nation cannot become strong, so long as this canker of corruption continues eating into the vitals of our body-politic. Those who put obstacles in the way of the solution of this problem, will be doing a great disservice to the country. With these words, I resume my seat, though of course I would like to reply to the criticism that might be levelled at my proposal, towards the end.

Mr. Speaker : Resolution moved—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps at an early date for the election of an Anti-Corruption Officer in the State on the basis of adult franchise with powers to organise a suitable machinery for anti-corruption drive, to suspend and recommend to the Government departmental action or dismissal of any Government employee found by him to be guilty of corruption.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban,) (*Hindi*) :

Sir, at first I had a mind to take this resolution seriously and had accordingly given notice of an amendment also. But now I think there is no need of moving the amendment in question. I am not in favour of the resolution, as it stands. I oppose it because of its peculiar wording which has made it an impracticable resolution.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member can speak for 15 minutes only.

(*A voice :* If you move your amendment, you will get more time).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, then do you want me to move my amendment in order to get more time to speak? No, I think you can give me a little more time, even otherwise. Sir, I oppose this resolution because I am of the view that the proposal of the election of an Officer for tackling the evil of corruption is impracticable. It is true that the method of electing judges and other officers was tried for sometime in America, but it is also true that in actual working this system was not found satisfactory and had to be given up. When in this country, even by elections, we have often failed to achieve the desired results, how can we lay any great store by this method for purposes of the appointment of an anti-corruption officer? In my opinion, the game will not be worth the candle. It will entail unnecessary expenditure and botheration.

So far as the spirit of the resolution is concerned, so far as the question of making a special effort to deal with the corruption prevalent in this State is concerned, so far as the taking of effective measures to checkmate this evil is concerned, I don't think any hon. Member of this House can disagree with my hon. friend the mover (*Cheers*). Sir, I would with all the force at my command urge the Government to take very strong and effective measures to root out this evil of corruption which has since long been eating into the vitals of our body-politic like a canker, making it hollow from within. Unless strenuous effort is made to remove this malady, it will destroy our body politic before long, and the freedom that we have achieved after tremendous suffering and sacrifice, will be lost to us again. Sir, in no case can we tolerate the prevalence of this evil in our State, in our country, in our Government or in any of our organizations. (*Cheers*). Sir, our neighbouring country, China, had to undergo a revolution, chiefly because of the failure of the Nationalist Government to checkmate corruption and blackmarket. In fact both the terms apply to the same evil. 'Blackmarket' refers to the 'bribe' taken by the traders and 'corruption' is applied to the 'illegal gratification' taken by the public servants. Any Government which allows this evil to prevail in its regime, does so at its own risk. This is the lesson of history. It is keeping this thing in view, that we so insistently draw the attention of our Government to the urgent necessity of putting an end to it. If the Government thinks that by celebrating anti-corruption weeks, by issuing posters and notices in its condemnation, by constituting an Anti-Corruption Committee, and now by establishing an anti-corruption agency with its ramifications spreading to all districts, it will succeed in eradicating this evil from this State, I would submit, Sir, that it is labouring under a great delusion, and the sooner it faces the stern facts, the better it would be for all concerned. In the Governor's address, there was an attempt to create the impression that corruption has been brought under control to a very large extent. The hon. Chief Minister also tried to create this impression in his speech, yesterday. Sir, my submission is that this impression is absolutely incorrect.

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : Why is the usual '*josh*' lacking in you to-day ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I think that too much of *josh* which is often displayed by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lehri Singh in his speech is sometimes devoid of '*ho-h*'. I am therefore, trying to maintain both '*josh*' and '*hosh*'. I would, therefore, through you, Sir, request the Government to take necessary steps to root out corruption from the Government departments. This matter cannot brook any delay. It is obvious that the present methods adopted by the Government have proved unsuccessful and it is idle to expect that these methods would prove effective in eradicating this evil from the administration. It is a matter of common knowledge that during the Unionist regime corruption was rampant in every department of the Government. But I regret to say that this is on the increase now. It is most unfortunate that this evil of corruption which was deep rooted in the administration during pre-independence days should continue even now. With all the shortcomings in the British regime, it cannot be denied that at least in a few cases of corruption the Government, did not falter to take strong action against even a few highly placed officers. Even in the Unionist Government regime though there was clash between rural and urban interests, yet some corrupt officers could not escape punishment. But I am pained to see that our administrative organization is also riddled with corruption. In the year 1948, the Government published figures regarding complaints of corruption received by the Government but we have not been able to know what

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action the Government took against the corrupt officers. I wonder why you are looking towards the clock.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is only to see whether the time limit of 15 minutes has not expired.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, you should not impose this time limit unless it is warranted by Rules.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I refer the honourable Member to the relevant rule. It runs :—

No speeches on a resolution except with the permission of the Speaker will exceed 15 minutes in duration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I suppose even in the face of this rule you will not allow me more than 15 minutes. I was submitting, Sir, that the figures so published do not make it clear if any effective steps have been taken by the Government to suppress corruption. I also feel sorely disappointed on reading the Budget speech of the hon. Chief Minister while presenting the Budget for the year 1950-51. I am a stout opponent of Pakistan for its sins of commission and omission and wholly approve of an idea of going to war against that country on account of our deteriorating relations with that country, if all other peaceful methods fail. But with all this, I must admire that Government for taking stringent measures to deal effectively with corrupt elements even in highest quarters. It did not spare even two of her Prime Ministers and high officials. But what we find here is that a few unscrupulous and dishonest persons from the lower ranks, such as Patwaris, Girdawars and foot-constables have been punished in connection with the anti-corruption drive launched in our State and no hand has been laid on the highly placed officers. May I ask if this attitude exhibits any sense of responsibility or the spirit of implementing the official policy to root out corruption from the various Government departments? Is this the high level of administration which the Government can take pride of? Is this the Swaraj that has been transformed into Ram Raj? I am of the view that unless the Government adopts stern attitude and takes serious notice of allegations of corruption made against any officer howsoever highly placed he may be without any fear or favour, it will be very difficult to root out corruption and, bribery from our State. It is only due to the half-hearted measures that the corruption is still flourishing in our departments. and unless our Government follows in the wake of Pakistan Government in this respect, it cannot make its administration pure and honest. But our Government instead of launching prosecution against the highly placed officers has been able to dismiss one Patwari, one Darogha, one Qanungo and one Overseer from service. According to the Anti-corruption Committee report one Patwari was awarded one year's rigorous imprisonment while one Constable, one Lambardar and one assistant Sub-Inspector of Police were sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 each.

The cases of two I. C. S. officers against whom serious allegations had been made are still pending. They instead of being tried in open court as in Pakistan have been placed under I. A. S. officers for enquiry. Four officers of P. C. S. cadre who had been accused of various kinds of corruption were promoted to I. A. S. with the support of an officer. Further our Government in its Anti-corruption Committee report states :—

“During the year under review instructions have been issued that where the conduct of any officer is under enquiry, his promotion and confirmation, if any, should be withheld or the efficiency bar not lifted until the competent authority has considered the report of the Enquiry Officer”.

If such half-hearted measures are adopted to clean up the administration of corrupt officials, I think the Government will never be successful in its campaign of suppressing corruption from the State. The Government should, therefore, devote serious thought on this subject and take strong action against the unscrupulous and dishonest officials and see that nobody shields or saves them. Merely to take action against Patwaris and other low-paid Government servants would not improve matters.

Sir five P. C. S. Officers were involved in corruption cases and two I.C.S. men were appointed to try them. I am reliably informed that one such Inquiry Officer and one Additional Sessions Judge bargained with each other that one should acquit the other's men and the other would reciprocate. This is something shameful and mars the reputation of the Congress and the Government. Therefore I feel that though the wording of the resolution under consideration is very defective its spirit is very much called for and there is hardly an hon. Member in this House who would be opposed to it. I am strongly of the opinion that an agency to deal with the corrupt officials should be set up without any delay. I do not favour the idea of the corruption complaints being dealt with by the Heads of Departments. Maybe they reprimand the culprits privately but they do not do anything effective. The work of the Anti-corruption committee has been unsatisfactory for this very reason that it used to refer cases to the departments for taking action. If an inquiry is to be made by the Department a lower officer say a Sub-Inspector will not dare to report against his superior. In these circumstances I honestly feel that we may disregard the words of the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh but we should grasp its spirit and take immediate steps to end corruption. If we fail in this task I have no doubt that this Government will not be able to keep itself in the saddle, nor would the hon. Speaker be found in his chair.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I put a question through you, Sir, to the hon. Member? The hon. Member was the chairman of a non-official Anti-corruption committee. Does he still continue to be the chairman of that committee or has he been removed—of course, with honours.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I don't know anything about it myself. I think practically my term ended with the exit of the last ministry. Two of the members of that sub-committee have been taken as Ministers and the chairman alone can't function.

Sardar Swaran Singh : (Jullunder west, Sikh, Rural (*Punjabi*)): Sir, I have stood up to oppose the resolution which has been moved by my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh and shall not utilize the time at my disposal for having a fling at the Government. In my opinion no action is possible on this resolution in any shape or form. The Punjab State has a population of about one and half crores of people and to elect an officer here on the basis of adult franchise appears to be an impossible task. Even if somebody has a mind to root out corruption by the method suggested he will not be able to do so and the Hindustani proverb will aptly apply.

ਨ ਨੌ ਮਨ ਤੇਲ ਹੋਗਾ ਨ ਰਾਧਾ ਨਾਚੇਗੀ।

ਨ ਨੌ ਸਨ ਤੇਲ ਹੋਗਾ ਨ ਰਾਧਾ ਨਾਚੇਗੀ।

If my hon. Friend had a genuine desire to remove corruption he should have placed a practicable proposal before the House. But he appears to shirk the responsibility of suggesting a practical solution as he is in the opposition.

Sardar Bachan Singh : At any rate the plan of the hon. Member has been accepted.

Sardar Swaran Singh : All will be right with my plan and the hon. Member need not bother about it. Coming to the question of electing an officer on adult franchise basis, I am to say that the Government may not be able even to get the electoral rolls prepared in about a year and a half. The work connected with such election must be colossal and will require time. It is said that the general elections will be held sometime towards the beginning of the next year but keeping in view the circumstances that appear to develop I am apprehensive whether we shall be able to hold them. **Mehta Sahib** appears to be forgetful of the difficulties involved and insists that an officer must be elected on the basis of adult franchise. Let us for a moment see as to what useful purpose will be served by electing this officer. The resolution asks for "the election of an Anti-corruption officer in the State on the basis of adult franchise with powers to organise a suitable machinery for anti-corruption drive to suspend and recommend to the Government departmental action or dismissal of any Government employee found by him to be guilty of corruption." I say should we undertake all this bother of adult franchise to have an officer who hasn't even powers to punish the culprits himself and is bound to recommend only departmental action or dismissal to Government? I would tell my hon. Friend that there is no necessity of electing an officer. He should not forget that he as also other members of this august House are the elected representatives of the people and have set up a Government under the leadership of the Hon. Chief Minister. Till the next general elections are held we should have faith in him and suggest him a plan for the anti-corruption drive which he may put through to-morrow morning. There is absolutely no sense in sitting idle and giving imaginary schemes. What I have suggested is absolutely correct so far as law is concerned. It is correct from procedural as well as from substantive law point of view. What is required is only a strong will to accomplish our task. If we have that we can succeed in no time as the required machinery is already in our hands and there is no necessity of having recourse to an election on adult franchise basis.

It is the duty of each one of us to completely banish corruption from the State. There is need of intensive propaganda in the public and it is the duty of the Government also that there should be no delay in dealing with cases of corruption. The past experience shows that in several cases where corrupt officials were suspended or Departmental enquiry was conducted or cases were instituted in the Courts, the witnesses were won over and the action started by the Government could not succeed. It will be admitted that unfortunately many people do not possess such a strong character that they would not resile from the statements made by them earlier. While the necessity of acting promptly is admitted on all sides, the Government should not act in such haste that some innocent persons might come to harm. In this connection I wish to pay a tribute to the special Enquiry Agency which has been doing this work in the Punjab in the face of numerous difficulties. They enquired into a large number of cases and did commendable work. If there is any defect in their work, it can be remedied. This task cannot be tackled by a machinery set upon the basis of election. Only a permanent body, having no connection with elected persons can do this work efficiently and honestly and remove corruption from official, as well as non-official circles. I am sorry that I cannot support even the spirit of the resolution because the method proposed in it is quite impracticable. There can be no difference of opinion about the fact that corruption is a great evil but only permanent staff can deal with it. The special Enquiry

Agency should be asked to work more promptly and the Tribunal which has to decide the cases can be asked to decide these without delay. If a person is kept under suspension for a long period, he might have to be paid a huge sum as his salary for that period. Moreover, this is a recognised dictum of Law that justice delayed is justice denied. Steps should be taken to expedite the working of the special Enquiry Agency. They might be given summary powers and the trying authority can be empowered to dismiss as well as punish a person, against whom the charge is established. In my opinion we can end corruption in this manner only.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : (Amritsar, General, Rural). (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, I wish that the resolution which has been moved by my Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh had been sponsored by some member of the Congress Party. As my Friend Sardar Swaran Singh was pleased to remark, the method which has been suggested in the resolution for removing corruption from the state is quite impracticable.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Corruption is prevailing in the administration but the question is as to how that is to be checked. Is it to be checked by the present system or by the method proposed in the resolution ? It is the question of machinery only. I draw the attention of the Members that they must be relevant to the proposal made in the resolution.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Corruption has been rampant in this country since the advent of British Rule. It has been common feature in the country that if a person got a job carrying a salary of Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 per mensem but no additional money could be earned through it, the job was not considered satisfactory. People wondered how such a person could make both ends meet. On the other hand if a person got a job at Rs. 50 per mensem and could earn an equal sum by other means, it was considered an attractive job. Corruption has been regarded a normal feature in this country. Since the present Government came into existence, there has been general complaint in the State that corruption had increased much more.

A few days back an hon. Minister came and stayed with me. At the same time another highly educated person, who is an M. A., was also staying with me. He did not know that the other gentleman was a Minister. When it was enquired from him what he thought about the Government and what was the view of the public, he complained of the existence of corruption to an unimaginable extent. An hon. Minister once told me, that he had come to know that Patwaris, Tehsildars and other officers had received huge sums of money as illegal gratification at the time of making allotment of land. It is being said on every side that corruption is rampant. I can relate here another instance. I met a retired Principal at Ludhiana ; he had been the Principal of a College at Jullundur. He told me that a certain person had applied for a loan and the officer concerned had taken a big sum from him besides other gifts. An hon. Minister admitted to me that a number of loans had been taken by clerks in the names of widows. Under these circumstances, it is necessary that strong measures should be taken for ending this wide spread corruption in services. I know we already have an Anti-Corruption Act. But that is not a sufficiently strong measure for effectively punishing the corrupt officials. For instance, I know of a person of Lahore who indulged in black market. Although at times he was fined Rs. 10 thousands to Rs. 20 thousands, yet he would not stop that malpractice. The reason was that he could earn lakhs in black market by paying a few

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thousands as fine. The hon. Chief Minister very well knows the name of that person. Considering the present situation I am reminded of a couplet.

ਚਾਰ ਕਿਤਾਬਾਂ ਉਤੋਂ ਉਤਰੀਆਂ ਪੰਜਵਾਂ ਉਤਰਿਆ ਡੰਡਾ,
ਚਾਰ ਕਿਤਾਬਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਨਾ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਜੋ ਕਰਦਾ ਸੋ ਡੰਡਾ।

ਚਾਰ ਕਿਤਾਬਾਂ ਤੁੱਥੋਂ ਤੁਰਿਆ ਪੰਜਵਾਂ ਤੁਰਿਆ ਡੰਡਾ,

ਚਾਰ ਕਿਤਾਬਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਨ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਜੋ ਕਰਦਾ ਸੋ ਡੰਡਾ।

What I want to submit, Sir, is this that there is no dearth of efficient and honest officers. Even my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma pointed out that 90 percent of the officials were corrupt. Even then there are 10 percent of them who are honest. If appointments are made out of honest people, I am sure corruption cannot continue in its present form. In the days of the British rule, an officer as high as Lord Hastings, the Viceroy, was impeached for having accepted gifts from Begums of Oudh. But in spite of the fact that corruption now is the order of the day, nothing is being done to end it. I am of the opinion that the Government ought to have brought forth a legislative measure for this purpose, even before this resolution had been moved. Corruption is eating into the vitals of our State and is bringing bad name to the Government itself. Such things might be existing even in other States ; but its existence in Punjab is all the more deplorable on account of the distress and misery of the people here. Time and again, this thing has been pointed out to the Government ; but so far no strong measure has been taken. The progress of the State is possible only when corruption is banished. But for the discipline of the party, I would have supported this resolution of Mehta Ranbir Singh. I would, however, urge upon the Government to bring forth a legislative measure before the House, for ending this evil of corruption. Such a step would enhance the reputation of the State.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is my ill luck that wherever I rise to clarify the position of the Government, it is said that I should speak at the end and if I speak at the end of the debate, it is said that I should be given less time because other hon. Members require more time. I think there can be no two opinions on this point that corruption which is there, should be ended and for this purpose strongest measures should be taken at the earliest. It has been said that in the days of the British rule or the Unionist party, corruption was not so rampant as today. I don't know whether the situation in this respect is worse or better today, because we did not get much information about these matters in the days of the Unionist party. Whenever we sent any complaint to the Government in those days, it tried to hush up the matter. I remember, our friend Sardar Sajjan Singh took us to a village called Patlooi Khurd where police had committed excesses and had got bribe from the people. We held an enquiry and wrote a report, a resume of which was also published in newspapers. It was also sent to Sir Sikander Hayat Khan. We raised this question in the Assembly ; but Sir Sikander Hayat held out a threat to us for making such on-the-spot enquiries. At that time I told him that we would continue to do so and that we were prepared for any consequences.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I want to say that Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan or the Unionist party is not on trial now. It is you who are on trial.

Chief Minister : I am glad that my learned Friend, thinking that I was accusing Sir Sikander Hayat Khan, has tried to defend him. But he has misunderstood me. I wanted to say that the hon. Members did not get as much information during those days, as is now available to them. As such it is not possible to compare the situation regarding corruption in the two regimes. It is not correct to enter into such comparisons. Sir, it may be less or more. But it is the duty of each one of us, as of the Government itself to take steps for removing corruption and bribery. One thing I cannot understand. An hon. Member has given the example of a shopkeeper of Lahore who was punished for black marketing. I must draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is the example of black marketing and not of corruption. A man who did black marketing was caught. He was fined or imprisoned. But corruption is quite different from black marketing. As far as black marketing is concerned recently there has been some legislation in various States of India in order to check it. A Bill with the same object in view is going to be brought before this House during this session. As regards corruption the matter is quite different. There are laws dealing with corruption. Persons found guilty are punished in accordance with the provisions of these laws. Anybody found guilty of getting a bribe is dealt with according to law. But in most of the cases it is not possible to catch him in the act of corruption and bribery. If on a mere complaint we file a suit against the man concerned and then we fail to prove it in the Court, it will be mere waste of time and money. Moreover the man charged of corruption will get a certificate from the court, which will mean that we won't be able to take even any departmental action against him. The only way to bring the corrupt official to book is to catch him red-handed. Somehow or other the man suspected is tempted to take bribe. If he does so he is caught red-handed and a case is instituted against him. We have very often resorted to this method. I may point out that where we are unable to catch the culprit red-handed we can take departmental action against him because in courts of law sometimes it becomes difficult to prove the charges. Then there are rules and a certain procedure which have to be followed in such cases. We can not make any departures from them. For instance, the Nagpur High Court has held in a certain case that Government cannot even suspend an officer without first obtaining his explanation.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Then, is the Government prepared to revise the orders in cases where persons have been suspended without first calling for their explanations ?

Chief Minister : We shall have to do it, if we have to follow the decision of the High Court.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, the honourable Chief Minister has stated that such is the decision of a High Court. There are so many other decisions of the High Court. Is the Government prepared to revise its rules in accordance with these decisions ?

Chief Minister : I wish to point out that our rules are not different ; even the central Government has such rules. According to these rules the state Government has fought so many cases in the High Court. If our High Court makes any decision we must follow it ; we can change our rules and procedures in the light of such decisions. We are always prepared to make any amendment in these rules provided it is desirable to do so. But I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Members to the nature of the complaints that we receive and to the manner in which they are sent to

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us. In some cases the complaints that we receive are anonymous. Sometimes even wrong names are given. There are some complaints (though they are few), in which a good deal of Government money and time is spent on enquiry. But in the end the matter turns out to be quite false ; for example, in some cases complaints of corruption and bribery are lodged. Enquiry is carried out. But in the meantime a letter is received informing the Government that the complaint was made only because there was some enmity between the parties. Now they have come to be on good terms ; so it may be treated as cancelled. Such is the nature of some of the complaints that we have received from some responsible persons in Punjab requesting us to hold inquiries. But the complaints were, in fact, unfounded. In some cases the complainant, himself being in fault, would put in a complaint in order to save his own skin. On our part we take care to see that all complaints are inquired into. We send even such anonymous complaints to the Special Enquiry Agency to find out whether they contain any iota of truth or not. The officer in charge of this agency is known for his honesty and sincerity. With him there are those officers who were asked to take a pledge at the time of their appointment that they would work with honesty. They promise to do their duties without fear or favour and to report with a full sense of responsibility. I am glad and I wish to make it clear to this House that all of these officers have discharged their duties faithfully and honestly. But it is a matter of regret that even these officers are not spared by some of the hon. Members in their criticism of the amounts of T. A. that are given to them. The office of the Special Inquiry Agency has been removed to Jullundur so that their work might be facilitated. The officers come here for submitting their reports in the meetings. They tell us the amount of work that has been done and the amount that remains to be done. My esteemed Friend Sardar Partap Singh has been the President of the Anti-Corruption Committee. He knows full well that the achievements of the Committee are quite appreciable I need not mention them here but he can bear me out that the complaints received are thoroughly enquired into by the Committee and important decisions are arrived at. Later I took charge of the office of the presidentship of this Committee. After some time Shri Bhim Sen Sachar succeeded me. The Secretary of this Committee is our Deputy Legal Remembrancer, a senior officer of the Provincial Civil Service. He has been holding the office of the District and Sessions Judge prior to his taking over the present job. He receives all the complaints regarding corruption and passes them on to the Special Enquiry Agency for investigation but a few of the complaints are also handed over to some other staff of the Intelligence Department. Then we do not remain content with investigation only. We call upon the complainant and offer him an opportunity to give his statement and adduce proof in support of his allegations, against that particular officer about whom he had sent the complaint. Apart from this, on receipt of a report the Committee calls upon the officer concerned to submit his explanation. If there is a prima facie case, the officer concerned is suspended forthwith and after framing a charge sheet against him, the case is thoroughly enquired into. At first his statement is recorded and then the case is entrusted to an officer of the Enquiry Staff. When the final report is submitted it is accepted in toto. Besides, if on receipt of a complaint of corruption against a certain officer, the Anti-Corruption Committee asks that department, to which the officer belongs, to suspend him forthwith, the department cannot raise its voice against it and has to carry out the orders. Hon. Members have been provided with a copy of the working of the Anti-Corruption Committee. If they peruse the report, they would find that the work of the Committee has

so much increased that some times considerable delay is caused in the submission of a report of a certain case. The reason is that even anonymous complaints are also investigated in the hope that the same might possibly contain some truth. Then there is another side of the picture. When a case is proved against an officer, pressure is brought to bear upon the Government from certain quarters to save him from the consequences. If the officer involved is a displaced person, then people approach the Government with the request that pardon be granted to him as dismissal would result in starvation to his family. Then those persons who are in a position to supply necessary information for the completion of the investigation, refuse to help the authorities. They begin to feel sympathetic towards the culprit and avoid giving any evidence that may go against him. Hon. Members can well realise the difficulties of the investigating officer in the face of lack of co-operation on the part of the public, who in the heat of sentiment ignore the fact that a corrupt person is a menace to the society as well as to the State and he should be brought to book. He should be given such an exemplary punishment that giving and taking of bribe should be discouraged. But the people would not co-operate. So it is for want of this co-operation which is denied by the public to the Government, that undue delay is caused in the completion of the investigation. Then there are officers who are really corrupt but the ends of justice cannot be met because necessary evidence is not forthcoming and even if an officer is put under departmental enquiry, the case fizzles out for want of any positive proof. As you are aware, Sir, even in a departmental enquiry action cannot be taken against an officer unless definite evidence is available. In such cases even circumstantial evidence would prove of no avail in the absence of some documentary proof. Then, Sir, very sweeping generalisations based on wrong presumptions have been made to the effect that there is 90 percent corruption rampant in the administration, and on this assumption a resolution has been moved by my hon. Friend. This sweeping generalisation is entirely unfounded and is not borne out by facts. If it had been the case he would have cited specific instances to substantiate his point.

Now, Sir, I cannot accept the resolution as it stands. If some suitable amendment is made in it, then I might see my way to accept it. In its present form it appears to be absolutely meaningless. The resolution states that "an anti-corruption officer in the State is to be elected on the basis of adult franchise". Now if we look at the voters list, we find that they are about 60 lakhs in number and they have to elect one officer. The question arises how to arrange the election in view of such a huge number of voters.

Sardar Partap Singh : With your permission, I may point out that there is nothing in the resolution to show as to what the qualifications of that officer would be for whom the voters have to cast their votes.

Chief Minister : I quite see that point. The resolution is quite silent about this fact. It is not clear who that gentleman would be ; what would be his qualifications ; how and in what manner he would organise his department and whether he is fully conversant with the job.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Probably the mover wants to contest the election for obtaining this job. (*Laughter*).

Chief Minister : Then there is another difficulty. Before that election takes place, we will have to explain to the 60 lakhs of voters that the candidate is in possession of such and such qualification or whether he is honest or otherwise or whether the gentleman who wants to contest the

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election, does so not for any ulterior motive and that his integrity is unquestionable. It is obvious how difficult, rather impossible task it is to arrange for the election of one man, by 60 lakhs of voters. Then ballot papers are to be distributed amongst the electorate and this will involve an expenditure amounting to lakhs of rupees. As you are aware, Sir, every member of the Legislative Assembly is to be elected by 75000 voters but here 60 lakhs of voters will have to elect an anti-corruption officer. If we arrange one polling centre for 600 voters, it would require 10 thousand polling centers all over the State for the election of one man. Then if four men were to be appointed to control one polling centre, then it means that services of 40 thousand men would be required to accomplish this task. I think this is an impracticable proposition and the House should not countenance it.

The resolution further states that the officer so elected is to be armed "with powers to organise a suitable machinery for anti-corruption drive". The wording of the resolution indicates that the mover himself is not clear about the exact machinery that would be required for the eradication of corruption. As a matter of fact, unless the electorate are told that the candidate is duly qualified to combat the evil of corruption and possesses ability to organise anti-corruption drive successfully, 60 lakhs of voters would feel diffident to vote for him. The mover has not suggested how he hopes to bring about the election of this officer. Besides the system of this election being defective, there is yet another shortcoming in it. The House cannot suggest anything to the gentleman so elected, as to how he should proceed with his job. The whole proposal made in the resolution is an impossibility.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Chief Minister need not labour hard and wax eloquent on the resolution. The mover is no longer serious about it. (*Laughter*)

Chief Minister : The resolution further on says that he should have powers to "suspend and recommend to the Government for departmental action or dismissal of any Government employee found by him guilty of corruption". In other words the mover of the resolution does not repose confidence in the ability of a person who possesses highly representative character, to be competent enough to punish a corrupt official. It is possible that the mover has no intention to invest penal powers in that officer. He says that the officer will simply recommend to the Government and not pass orders himself for departmental action, suspension or dismissal of a corrupt employee. The anti-corruption officer cannot stop the increment or even record adverse remarks in the file of a corrupt official. In view of this it looks preposterous to spend lakhs of rupees on the election of one officer, who will have very limited powers. Besides this is a proposition which is thoroughly impracticable. I think if the hon. Mover had given his careful thought to his proposal, he would have at once realised the futility of it and refrained from moving it. I don't think even his party is serious about this resolution.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Please don't give them the status of a party. They are individuals only.

Chief Minister : I have already stated that I am prepared to place before the House the rules of enquiry which have been framed in this connection. Before incorporating these rules of enquiry, I am prepared to take the decision of the House and then enforce them accordingly. I also wish to

bring this point home to my hon. Friends that I shall always welcome their suggestions for eradicating corruption in our State. Under the circumstances, I do not support the resolution, now before the House and I would like to request my hon. Friends to reject it by an overwhelming majority.

(At this stage Sardar Sajjan Singh rose to speak)

The Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : Sir, the mover of the resolution is the only member of his party, and he has had his say. There is no other member in his party; the question may, therefore, be now put.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I find that from the Opposition side only one member has so far spoken. I think that opportunity should be given to at least one more hon. Member to put his point of view.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : On a point of Order Sir, There is a convention that the Speaker comes to the rescue of the minority so that the majority may not misuse their power by proposing a closure motion.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is why I have asked Sardar Sajjan Singh to speak.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta is of vital importance as through it, it is intended to root out corruption which is rampant in the services. It goes without saying that the existence of corruption means the negation of the rule of law. I am of the opinion that each and every honest person has after taking the stock of the situation arrived at the conclusion that corruption in our State is the order of the day. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to devise ways and means to put an end to this evil with a view to giving entire satisfaction to the general public. The hon. Chief Minister has stated that no mention has been made in the resolution about the qualifications of the proposed Anti-corruption Officer. I would like to bring this point home to him that at the time of election we will make the voters understand that the officer to be elected should be an honest and impartial person. We will also impress upon them to cast their votes in favour of a really deserving candidate who would work in a spirit of self-sacrifice and self-denial. As I have already stated and there can be no two opinions on the matter, the very existence of corruption in the services is the negation of the rule of law. I am of the opinion that such an officer should be elected, as does possess eyes like the angel of Justice.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would not like to have instances.

Sardar Swaran Singh : They are not at all relevant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of Order, Sir. For electing an Anti-corruption Officer it has got to be proved to what extent corruption is prevalent in the State.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The question is not of corruption or election as such. The intention of the resolution is that the existing rule should be changed and an Anti-corruption Officer be chosen by election.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : And when there is no corruption prevalent in the State ?

Mr. Speaker : That is admitted by the side of the hon. Member.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I wanted to point out as to why it has been felt necessary to take such an extra-ordinary step. Here I cannot do without quoting a few lines from the answer to a question asked by my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma on the floor of this House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is there any Law under which such rules can be violated ?

Chief Minister : Such steps are taken when any emergency arises.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that people are violating the Law ? If so, whether Government also feel the necessity to do the same ?

Chief Minister : Yes."

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Under the circumstances when such be the character of the Government, what good can we expect from them. I am of the opinion that the disease of corruption has spread so much that the existing rules and laws cannot be instrumental in eradicating it. As a matter of fact the existing rules and laws for wiping out corruption in the State will not serve any useful purpose. Hence extra-ordinary measures have got to be taken to combat this extra-ordinary disease. We should, therefore, devise ways and means to choose by election such an officer who would really do some substantial work in this direction. After all what objection is there in the appointment of the proposed officer ? At present the administration of our State is such that the Government does not pay any attention to the applications sent by the people against those officers who resort to corruption. So far as I am concerned, I have been taking keen interest in such cases and it will not be out of place to mention here that I have grown grey while bringing such cases to the notice of the Government. I have already had much experience of the administration of the three Governments namely, the British, the Unionist and the Congress and I have come to this conclusion that in these days corruption is on the increase as the Government is very weak and feeble. Just as the germs of some disease overpower a patient and thus weaken his stout body, similarly we find that the administration and the party in power are suffering from so many weaknesses to such an extent that they do not possess enough stamina to fight against these evils. This is my view-point. If somebody asks why I have formed this opinion my reply is because the rule of law does not obtain here. A government servant whose sentence to six months imprisonment has been set aside under section 401 I. P. C., is not removed from service though I feel under the rules, this should have been done.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is that not the rule of law ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I am just going to explain why I feel there is no rule of law here. The person to whom I was referring was dismissed from service as a result of his conviction under section 323 I. P. C. and has been to the jail, but he has now been re-appointed as Sub-Inspector of Police. On the other hand, a police officer of tehsil Patti who was dismissed from service just for writing a letter to a Congressman has not so far been reinstated to his original post. Now I might cite another instance of this nature. A person who was before the partition forced to resign by the Government

of India on pain of being prosecuted on charge of corruption has been re-employed as Superintendent of Police by our Government. Previously, he has for some time been working as Camp Commandant also, thanks to the kindness of this Government. Is this the rule of law? Certainly not. Sir, it is for this reason that we urge upon the Government the necessity of appointing an anti-corruption officer with necessary powers to take the strongest possible action against the corrupt persons—an officer who may be able to inspire confidence among the people that he will leave no stone unturned to eradicate corruption. Believe me, Sir, under the regime of this Government some persons have the courage to sit down in front of the Secretariat and declare that if they are paid a fee of Rs. 40 to Rs. 300, they would help anybody to achieve his object, in so far as the decision on any case being dealt with by the Government is concerned and in this way they manage to collect money for themselves. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that these persons are the friends of the hon. Ministers and so they are not afraid of anything (*Voices*: What is his name?) It is known to everybody and so I need not mention it. How long can a Government continue to be in power, if under its regime the state of justice is such that the smaller fry should come in for the most drastic punishments even for petty faults, while the big persons escape scot-free even though they may be guilty of such serious offences as corruption? Sir, if it is brought to the notice of the Government that a certain big person has filed a false claim for allotment of land and the Government admits that he claimed to have left behind 300 acres of land in West Punjab while in fact he owned only 80 acres of land, and even then it does not move its machinery of law against him, what other way is there to set right the present administrative set-up except by implementing Mr. Mehta's resolution? In my opinion, Sir, we should feel beholden to him for bringing this resolution before the House. It is essential for us to get rid of this evil, even though we may have to spend lakhs of rupees for this purpose. The hon. the Chief Minister has expressed a fear that the implementation of this proposal will entail a lot of expenditure. I say our long-cherished hopes about the future of our country are being dashed to the ground, our very freedom which we achieved after making untold sacrifices is in danger owing to the prevalence of corruption, and excuses are being given for Government's inability to accept a proposal aiming at the eradication of this evil. Therefore, Sir I urge that we should not hesitate to spend money for this purpose. Was it for bringing about a regime honeycombed with corruption on an increased scale, that countless people had been wasting their lives in jails for years on end? Was it for this purpose that we had fought the battle of independence and made sacrifices in that cause? If that is the case, then I think the following couplet aptly applies to the situation.

हम जिस के लिये बरबाद हुये वह सपना ही निकल आया है ।

ਹਮ ਜਿਸ ਕੇ ਲੀਏ ਬਰਬਾਦ ਹੁਏ ਵਹ ਸਪਨਾ ਹੀ ਨਿਕਲ ਆਇਆ ਹੈ

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the root cause of this evil of corruption which is today prevailing in a very acute form. The root cause of this evil is the wide disparity, in some cases in the ratio of one to several hundred, in the salaries of the high and the low employees. So long as this disparity continues, corruption will not end.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, that is not the issue before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. Let the hon. Member proceed with his speech.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I feel, Sir, that we should always be prepared to spend any amount of money in order to eradicate this evil, so that we may not once again lose our independence which we have attained after so many sufferings and sacrifices. The attitude of our Government reminds me of that Urdu verse :

ਗੁਫਤਾਰ ਕੇ ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ੀ ਤੋ ਬਨ ਹੀ ਗਏ

ਕਿਰਦਾਰ ਕੇ ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ੀ ਬਨ ਨਾ ਸਕੇ

गुफ्तार के ग़ाज़ी तो बन ही गये । किरदार के ग़ाज़ी बन न सके ॥

So far as I think, Sir, Mehtaji's voice should be considered to be the voice of every honest Punjabi. So we should not be deterred from implementing his resolution for fear of expenditure. We should consider it as our foremost duty. Just as one has to bear pain and suffering by submitting to an operation in order to get rid of a deep-seated malady, in the same way we should not mind making a little sacrifice for rooting out corruption from our body-politic.

Minister For Labour : On a point of order, Sir. My point of order relates to a matter of every day importance. Your position is that of a Speaker and not of a President. It is not correct to address you as 'Pardhanji', as some hon. Members do. The Hindi equivalent of 'Speaker' is 'Adhyaksh'. In Punjabi, you should not be addressed as 'Pardhanji' but as '*Bolooji Maharaj*' or by some other suitable term. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member : Or, as '*Bolar*'.

An Honourable Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

5 P. M.]

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have listened very attentively to all those speeches which have been delivered in opposition of my resolution. I have already explained its practical aspects. But I am sorry to say that if my honourable Friends had carefully understood the idea underlying and the speeches that have been delivered in the House to root out corruption, they would not have raised any objection to the practical aspects of the resolution. My honourable Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has remarked that the suggestion contained in the resolution is somewhat uncommon and it would be very difficult to put it into effect. But I may point out to him that to grapple with this problem is rather a difficult task no doubt, but if no efforts are made to overcome these difficulties, they will in course of time become insurmountable. In view of the objections that have been raised by some of my friends, I would request the Government to constitute an independent committee which should go into this question, as I am afraid, that this important resolution may not be shelved by the Government. Similarly my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has remarked that the resolution is devoid of all sense of practicability as the officer so elected will not be able to act immediately. But during the course of his speech he laid stress on the adoption

of a long range policy but now he has criticised the same policy which is underlying in this resolution. Corrupt element is busy profiteering itself by all foul means and there is no check to their undesirable activities. Similarly it need hardly be said that sometime back an hon. Minister of this Government used to carry permits of steel in his pocket to profiteer himself and his men. (*Voices*: Absolutely wrong). At that time my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh was Minister and as he had a joint responsibility.....

Sardar Swaran Singh : No, Sir, they too have a joint responsibility to create disorder.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : May I ask the honourable Member not to address Sardar Swaran Singh ?

Sardar Swaran Singh ; Sir, he is addressing me through you.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : No such insinuation. The hon. Member should proceed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, my honourable Friends who have delivered speeches in opposition to this resolution have not said that the present methods to combat this evil of corruption have proved successful. On the contrary everybody has admitted that corruption and bribery are on the increase. If this is the case I am constrained to remark that my friends who have opposed the resolution are not serious to eliminate corruption but wish in a way that it should flourish.

Sardar Inder Singh : Is it not a fact that the hon. Member himself bought a motor car on permit ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Yes, I purchased it on payment and without any concession and that too in the United Punjab.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : Order, order. The honourable Member should not impute any motives.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, when corruption has increased all round, I cannot remain indifferent but would therefore tell the Government that since the methods so far employed to stamp out corruption have entirely failed, it is necessary to radically change the methods. The argument that the demand for anti-corruption officer on the basis of adult franchise is almost impossible and there are so many difficulties involved in its adoption is not at all convincing. If the Government is in fact anxious to weed out corruption from the State, then difficulties can find solution. I would ask Sardar Swaran Singh not to display non-serious attitude to this resolution. In fact the evil of corruption is so deep-rooted in the administration of the Government that it has become exceedingly difficult to eradicate it root and branch by ordinary methods. The Government, by opposing this resolution, wants to retain power in its own hands. There should not be the least hitch in adopting this resolution because if any fundamental defects have been brought to the notice of the Government, it should not fail to adopt the alternative method that has been suggested in the present resolution. It should readily accept the demand of the general public and should not unnecessarily stick to the old methods which have not proved successful. I would submit that the resolution could not be made so comprehensive as to include all procedural details, which I am sure will not present any difficulties, if the resolution is passed by the House.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Sir, I do not say that the present system of doing things should altogether be done away with. I have given full consideration to every word of my resolution. We cannot do anything which is repugnant to the provisions of our Constitution. Consequently nobody can be given the powers of a parallel Government and that is why I have not asked for plenary powers for an elected officer. I am aware that there is always a possibility of powers being misused by an individual and in case such a thing comes to pass we may be faced with a very grave difficulty. What I wish is this that he should be elected and not appointed by the Government so that he keeps independent views. I have fears that he may not suggest proper action against Government employees if he is a nominee of the Government. The hon. Chief Minister was also pleased to say that the resolution did not indicate as to what machinery was to be set up by the elected officer. I would tell him that such things cannot be stated in resolutions. A resolution merely states the principle. These details are covered by the Bills which are passed to enforce the recommendation made in it.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, there is no mention of any Bill in the resolution.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : My hon. Friend should know that after a resolution is passed by the House necessity is often felt of passing a Bill. It will be recalled that such a thing happened in the case of the resolution relating to land consolidation. I am convinced that if we want to remove corruption there are ways of doing it.

It has been suggested that necessity would again arise of holding a general election if the officer dies and the State would be unnecessarily burdened with expenditure. I have thought over the question and am in a position to solve it. I can quote here the example of America where no fresh elections are held if the President dies. The vice-President steps into his place. Then it has been remarked that a fresh election might be necessitated if an election petition is successful against the officer. Here again I can tell of a way out. When there is an election petition against the officer and the Election Tribunal consisting of say Chief Justice and two Judges of the High Court passes a judgment against him the candidate who stood next to him in the election can take his place. Anyhow these are matters of detail and can be considered when a regular Bill comes before the House.

I am grateful to my hon. Friend Lala Kedar Nath Sehgal for having given vent to his innermost feelings without any kind of reservation or prejudice. I trust that other hon. Members will also disregard the party whip and vote with me.

Mr. Speaker : Question is

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps at an early date for the election of an Anti-Corruption Officer in the State on the basis of adult franchise with powers to organise a suitable machinery for anti-corruption drive, to suspend and recommend to the Government departmental action or dismissal of any Government employee found by him to be guilty of corruption :

The Assembly divided : Ayes 4, Noes 50.

AYES

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bachan Singh, Sardar. | 3. Sajjan Singh, Sardar. |
| 2. Ranbir Singh, Mehta. | 4. Suraj Mal, Chaudhri. |

NOES

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|---|--|
| 1. Ajit Singh, Sardar. | 26. Mehr Chand, Chaudhri. |
| 2. Amar Nath Shri, Vidyalkar. | 27. Mohar Singh, Rao. |
| 3. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri. | 28. Narinder Singh, Sant. |
| 4. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri. | 29. Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar. |
| 5. Beli Ram, Thakur. | 30. Pancham Chand, Thakur. |
| 6. Bhagat Ram, Chodha, Shri. | 31. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati, Dr. |
| 7. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit. | 32. Partap Singh, Sardar. |
| 8. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri. | 33. Piara Singh, Sardar. |
| 9. Buja Ram, Bhagat. | 34. Prithvi Singh Azad, The Honourable Shri. |
| 10. Dalip Singh, Thakur. | 35. Ranjit Singh, The Honourable Captain. |
| 11. Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit. | 36. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri. |
| 12. Ganga Saran, Seth. | 37. Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar. |
| 13. Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr. | 38. Sahib Ram, Chaudhri. |
| 14. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The Honourable Sardar. | 39. Samar Singh Chaudhri. |
| 15. Gurbachan Singh, Sardar. | 40. Sant Ram Seth, Dr. |
| 16. Isher Singh Mujhail, Sardar. | 41. Sardul Singh, Sardar. |
| 17. Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar. | 42. Shanno Devi Saigal Shrimati. |
| 18. Jaswant Singh Duggal, Sardar. | 43. Sher Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 19. Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar. | 44. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar. |
| 20. Kabul Singh, Sardar. | 45. Shiv Singh, Sardar. |
| 21. Kartar Singh, Sardar. | 46. Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit. |
| 22. Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri. | 47. Sita Devi, Shrimati. |
| 23. Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri. | 48. Swaran Singh, Sardar. |
| 24. Lehna Singh Sethi, The Honourable Dr. | 49. Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar. |
| 25. Matu Ram, Chaudhri. | 50. Virendra, Shri. |

EJECTION OF TENANTS

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir I move :—

This Assembly recommends to the Government that all ejections of tenants be stopped till the land tenure system in the Punjab is revised and landlordism abolished and further that all those tenants who have been ejected since the 15th of August 1947, be restored to their respective lands.

Sir, I have moved this resolution because the Congress ever since its inception, has been holding out promises of help to the agriculturists and the peasants who are not proprietors of land. The Karachi Resolution of the Congress is a surety to that effect. It was said in that resolution that, when Congress party came into power, it would ensure proper and decent life for the poor landless tenants. In other states, measures have been enacted for the support and uplift for this section of our people. The U. P. Government, we know, has created a wonderful record of uplifting the tenants. Other States have also passed laws for the betterment of these poor people. Ours is the only state which has not done anything so far, in this direction. On the other hand the condition of these people is becoming worse and life is becoming hard for them.

(At this stage Mr. speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy speaker)

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Art. 31 of the Constitution lays down :—

- (1) No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law.
- (2) No property, movable or immovable, including any interest in, or in any company owning, any commercial or industrial undertaking, shall be taken possession of.....

The wording of the resolution clearly indicates that land tenure system be revised and landlordism should be abolished and as such contravenes the provisions of Art. 31 of the Constitution. I therefore, submit that such a resolution cannot be allowed to be discussed.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker** : The hon. Member should know that it is only a recommendation to the Government. It is not a piece of legislation.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Can a recommendation be made by the legislature which directly contravenes an article of the Constitution?

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker** : No, it does not contravene any article of the Constitution.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : It does, Sir. If you kindly refer to the wording of the resolution, you will see that it seeks to abolish landlordism and pre-supposes that such a law would be passed and my point is that this cannot be done till such time as it has received the assent of the President.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : As I have already said it is not a piece of legislation but only a recommendation to the Government.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Can such a recommendation be made by the Legislature?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Recommendation can be made.

Sardar Sajjan Singh :

Sir, one of my hon. Friends has raised one objection and a second has raised another. I would like to say that the resolution recommends to the Government only to grant protection to the tenants in the villages just as the tenants in the towns are given protection against eviction etc. So to entertain any fears in respect of this resolution, is without justification. My hon. Friends should rest assured that unless the Central Government passes any legislation against the vested interests, they need not harbour any fears. Our previous Chief Minister declared on the occasion of Kisan Satyagraha in Hissar District, in 1949, that some sort of legislative measure will certainly be brought forward to give protection to the tenants. But it is regretted that till now nothing has been done to inspire confidence and hope in the minds of these poor people. The Government has neither brought any measure for this purpose before the House, nor shown any inclination to do that. Our independence, if it is meant for the betterment of the vested interests and not for the poor people, is a meaningless thing. If these people are not given shelter, clothing and bread, freedom cannot mean anything for them. In the present set up, the poor tenants are being ejected and the Government is sleeping over the matter. It therefore, becomes incumbent on me to appeal to the hon. Members to do something, for God's sake, to extend the warmth of freedom to those poor people also who suffered under foreign domination in the hope that something would be done for them after that yoke was thrown off. It was hoped that on achieving independence the Government of the people would be able to remove all those difficulties of the public in general which faced them in the days of foreign domination. It is my considered opinion that it was but natural for the British Government to keep their vested interests safe in India in those days. With a view to achieve this they passed such orders which were in favour of these vested interests. But now I find no reason to support the contention that such interests should be maintained by our own national Government. Those leaders who pledged their sympathies for the welfare of the poor agriculturists should now come forward to utilize the power they have achieved, for the betterment of the down trodden. The actual tillers of the soil who have been paying land revenue to the Government should not be allowed to be ejected. It is no justice that such tenants may be deprived of their land which their forefathers have been tilling. My contention is that not only should such tenants alone be afforded protection by the Government but legislation should be brought forward for the protection of all other kinds of agricultural labour in the State. If this resolution is carried, I am sure the hon. Members will be doing a good deal by way of rendering useful help to the poor. This will be a matter of relief to them and the tenants will get the help which they deserve. Not only this, but it will have a healthy effect on other States of India also. The prestige of this party will go up in the eyes of the public. The people will once again begin to feel that after all the Congress is coming to the right path. But on the other hand if this is not done the people will say that the Congress Government has forgotten all its promises made to the Kisans and labourers.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : The hon. Member is indulging in a mere talk. He himself has forgotten his promises made to the Congress party.

Sardar Sajjan Singh ; I have already stated that the Congress party has not kept its pledges made to the electorate. That is why I decided to leave the party. But even then I expect that the Government will take

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

every suggestion, from whatever quarter it may come, on its merits and act accordingly. This attitude on their part will add to their prestige and honour. Sir, it is my humble opinion that the main cause of the prevailing restlessness in the State is that the tenants have not been granted that amount of protection which is their due. If they are given to understand that the land they cultivate is theirs and that it will not be taken away from them, they will work on it with all their energy thus adding to the Grow-More-Food efforts of the Government. At present it is common knowledge that our Government is very anxious in the matter of Grow-More-Food campaign. An Additional Financial Commissioner has been appointed for this ; many jeeps have been purchased. So many other expenses are being incurred with a view to making this campaign a success. But my submission is that if our Government affords protection to the tenants against ejectment, it will have no need for spending on such Departments. In that case the Kisan of the Punjab will be able to produce so much foodgrain that it will meet not only the needs of the people of this State but those of the country as well. But, Sir, due to the lack of attention towards this important problem on the part of the Government, the tenants are being ejected at some places.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Can the hon. Member prove his contention by giving facts and figures ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : It is a matter of general knowledge that notices of ejectments are being issued in places like Fazilka, Hissar, Gurgaon etc.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Will the hon. Member please state the number of such villages and of such notices ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I am not a Government 'Monim' that I should keep such data with me. My only submission is that there should not be any ejectment whatsoever. If no check is put on this injustice there is a danger to the peace of the State. Every intelligent person knows that if the communist principles are not allowed to come in a peaceful and constitutional manner, there is a danger of the state of affairs taking a turn which they took in countries like Russia and China. In my opinion the best interests of the country demand that Jagirdars and such other vested interests should be deprived of those rights which actually belong to the tenants, in a peaceful and constitutional manner. If this is not done I fear that the tenants might find no other course open to them except that of disturbing the peace of the State because it is generally believed that a dying man resorts to all sorts of tactics. The tenants will be placed in a State of mind where it becomes difficult for an ordinary person to think and act reasonably. They will be very much upset. The only way to remove their sufferings and to save the landlords is giving full protection to the tenants so that they may be assured that the land they till belongs to them and that they and their children will get full benefit out of it. It is of utmost importance that the fear of the sword of ejectment which is at present hanging on their heads, should be removed forthwith. If no assurance is given to these poor persons and if no confidence is created in their minds, it is feared that they might resort to thefts and dacoities. If they lose their lands, where from will they make their both ends meet ? This state of affairs will compel them to turn criminals and so they will rob and steal. So I submit that in order to keep the standard of morality of the country in its proper place the Government should know what its duty is in this important matter, I, therefore, feel that with a view to elevating the character of the people and making the Grow-More

food campaign a success, it is most essential that we should save the capital of our country which is being drained away to foreign lands in purchasing foodgrains for our countrymen. The only way to achieve this end, is to assure the tenants-at-will, who are at present entirely at the mercy of the landlords, that they may continue to till their lands without any fear, but they must pay the legitimate and legally due share of the produce to the landlords. They should produce for themselves and for others as well. They may rest assured that if they do so, nobody will eject them.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is the hon. Member aware that for the last three years the tenants have not paid a single pie to the landlords ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the hon. Pandit through you, that if he has failed to receive anything from his tenants, then the doors of courts are open to him. He can get his due share from them under the law. I may also point out to him that my resolution does not stand in the way of legitimate payments to be made by the tenants to the landlords. The underlying object is not to support the cause of those tenants who refuse to pay their proper dues but to lay stress on the fact that ejectionments should be stopped of those tenants who are quite willing to make payment of their dues to the landlords in accordance with the terms of the agreements. My hon. Friend will agree with me that no demand could be more reasonable than this.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I also inform the hon. Member that only those tenants are being ejected who are not willing to pay their dues?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I request you to ask the hon. Pandit Kaushish not to interrupt me again and again. I feel if it were in his power, he would forthright shoot me down so that I could no longer champion the cause of the poor tenants. Anyhow, I would like to convey to the hon. Pandit that the days of grace of the capitalists are now numbered. The time is coming when a person will be able to sustain his life only through work; otherwise he will have to die of starvation (*cheers*). He should not therefore, get impatient. He should hear me patiently and then do whatever he likes.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sardar Sahib, don't indulge in 'yabla'.
'yabla'.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : My hon. Friend should know that his job is to raise hue and cry for the vested interests but since I belong to the poor people, it is my paramount duty to fight for and safeguard to my utmost the rights of the poor tenants-at-will. I would, therefore, request my Friend to impress upon the Government the desirability of administering even handed justice to the poor tenants and seeing that they should not be served with ejectionment notices on frivolous pretexts.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member address as 'dosto' and not the Chair ? (*Laughter*).

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I would tell the hon. Members that if they want peace and tranquillity in the province and desire that our State should flourish then the only way to achieve this object is to offer full protection to the tenants and save them from the clutches of landlordism. As I have already stated, they are completely at the mercy of the landlords and

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therefore every effort should be made to protect them from improper ejectments. If this is not done, then dire consequences will follow. Only recently in 1947 we passed through grave and dreadful times and I don't want any recurrence of still more cataclysmic upheavals through which we may be required to pass again. Our province lies prostrate and does not possess stamina enough to face another disaster. I am afraid that if as a result of the economic degeneration of the tenants, the history of 1947 is repeated or the State is again faced with a serious calamity, then whatever enduring power or character of the people is left, it will totally vanish. If my hon. Friends shut their eyes to the stark realities, then they should not forget the happenings in China. In that country the civil war lasted for twelve long years and as a result of this, real brothers became enemies of one another. May I ask whether by refusing protection to the tenants, Government intend to bring about the conditions of China in this country? I would request them to give their careful consideration to the question of giving protection to the agricultural tenants. They should safeguard their rights and save them from the high-handedness of the landlords.

In this connection I would like to make a mention of another matter. In cities the tenants of houses are protected under the law. That is, if a tenant of a house regularly pays the rent, the owner of the house cannot eject him. If he continues to harass him, then the law comes to the rescue of the latter. My submission is that exactly on the same principle, the rights of the agricultural tenants be safeguarded. The landlords should be prevented from ejecting those tenants who regularly pay their dues to them. In this connection may I know what crime these poor agricultural tenants have committed that they are being denied those very facilities which have been made available to their urban brethren? I, therefore, request the Government to accept my resolution so that the anxiety of the honest tenants-at-will may be allayed and they should be able to devote their full energy to their work and add to the production of foodgrains in the country. With these words I close my remarks.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Since this House has to build up high traditions, I wish to draw your attention to an important matter. You are also aware, Sir, that Punjabi is also included in the languages which are to be used as vehicles of expression in this House. In your absence, an hon. Member used the words '*yablan kiyon mardeo*'. I want your ruling whether this expression is parliamentary or otherwise.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't think it is parliamentary. The hon. Member who used these words should have avoided them.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, can he suggest anything equivalent to the word '*yabal*'? *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker : Resolution moved :—

The Assembly recommends to the Government that all ejectments of tenants be stopped till the land tenure system in the Punjab is revised and landlordism abolished and further that all those tenants who have been ejected since the 15th of August, 1947, be restored to their respective lands

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural), *(Hindustani,*

Sir, the resolution put forward by my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh, has got a long history behind it. To cut short the British Raj established in this country a zamindara system, which has created such conditions in India that Congress Governments in different States, whether Madhya Bharat or Uttar Pradesh, or whether Madhya Pradesh or Orissa, have been compelled to admit that the system of landlordism will have to be done away with. It is a misfortune of our State that whereas the Governments of other States are going ahead with their programmes to finish landlordism, our Government is miserably lagging far behind them. I therefore feel that if our Government had been as progressive in outlook as Governments of other States were, the necessity of moving this resolution would not have arisen.

6 P. M.]

Tenants are really hard-hit. They are put to a lot of inconvenience. I am really constrained to remark that my hon. Friends would be grieved to see the conditions under which they are at present living in our State. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar when he was Premier held out promises to these Kisans to the effect that adequate protection would be given to them and that ejections of tenants would be stopped altogether, but these promises were never kept. Again when the Bhargava Ministry came into power, the hon. Chief Minister announced in public meetings at different places that an Ordinance would soon be promulgated to stop ejection of tenants. But since then no action whatsoever has so far been taken in this connection. Now it is given out that the present Ministry is very anxious to stop ejections by promulgating an Ordinance but his Excellency the Governor does not agree to it and that he is of the opinion that this object could only be achieved by bringing in a legislative measure. It is crystal clear from this that the promises already held out to them have not been fulfilled. This attitude on the part of the Government has been instrumental in adding insult to their injuries. Day in and day out tenants are being ejected and no action is taken against the landlords who resort to these malpractices. This is not all. Even the high officials have been instrumental in ejecting the tenants without any rhyme or reason. During my stay at Hissar I was informed by some tenants that a high official of our Government had ejected them for no fault whatsoever on their part as a result of which the land which was very productive lay barren and desolate. They further told me that on the one hand Government had started the work in connection with the Grow-More-Food campaign for increasing the food production in our State while on the other, responsible officials of our Government were not hesitating to eject them without any rhyme or reason, with the result that the lands continued to be barren and desolate. They told me that on approaching the high official with the request that they may not be ejected as they would be reduced to poverty and misery and would thus die of starvation they were told by him that they could earn their livelihood by resorting to dacoity and theft. On hearing these words from him they were taken aback and told him that they wanted to live in peace and that they were in no way out to resort to such crimes. These are the conditions under which the tenants are living at present in our State. I am really constrained to remark that our Government does not sympathise with these poor tenants who are deprived of their source of livelihood. May I know if our Government has ever cared to look into the conditions of these poor people? The poor tenants of Hissar repeatedly enquired from me whether there was nobody to sympathise with them and also whether there was nobody to plead their cause. I told them that we would plead their cause. I also told them that the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister who are the

[Sardar Bachan Singh.]

pillars of the Congress have already held out promises to the tenants for safeguarding their interest. In spite of the fact that we have Congress Government both at the centre and in the State, nothing substantial is being done to improve the hard lot of the poor tenants. In spite of the fact that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, declared in unequivocal terms at the All India Hind Kisan Conference that in no case should the tenants be ejected from the land they till with their own hands, we find tenants being ejected in our State it is a matter of gratification to note that the hon. Chief Minister has pointed out that our Government would concede the right to schedule castes to own agricultural land and that they will possess all the rights like other agriculturists under the Land Alienation Act. On the one hand we find that *Jhote waday* are held out to them, while on the other they are being ejected from their lands.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I know if the word "Jhoot" is not unparliamentary?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Member to withdraw this word as it is unparliamentary.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Very well, Sir. I withdraw the word. What I wish to submit is this that on the one hand promises are held out to tenants that they would not be ejected, while on the other they are being ejected. On the one hand poor tenants are being ejected from their lands while on the other Scheduled Castes are given the right of owning agriculturist land. Both these things are self contradictory. The only thing that we have to see is whether our Government is out to serve and serve well the ill-fed, ill-clothed and uncared for masses. But it seems that the Government is out to rule only and not to serve in the true sense of the word. The dual policy of the Government will not do. It will have to declare it in unequivocal terms whether this Government exists for the rich or for the poor. We should realize the fact that today we are standing on a volcano. Times have changed altogether. It is a pity that people owning huge tracts of land do not realize this fact. But they must know that time will not be far off when they will realize this fact. If they do not treat the tenants well and allow them to have their due, they will be committing a great blunder. They should rise to the occasion and realize the need of the hour and treat them well. They should not forget the maxim that justice delayed is justice denied. Or in other words as has been said :—

ਮੁਸ਼ੱਤੇ ਕਿ ਬਾਦ ਅਜ਼ ਜੰਗ ਯਾਦ ਮੇ ਆਇਦ

ਬਰ ਕਲਾਇ ਖੁਦ ਬਾਯਦ ਜ਼ਰ ।

मुश्ते कि बाद अज्ज जंग याद मे आयद

बर कल्लाये खुद बायद जर ।

It is clear from this that if timely action is not taken to stop ejection of tenants, then time will not be far off when our Government will realize its mistake and it would be too late to take any such step at that time. My hon. Friends know it fully well that in 1938-39 when sudden development had started taking place in the whole world, at that time, legislative measures were brought in for setting the tenants free from the clutch of traders, not only in the province of Punjab but also in every nook and corner

of India. At that time the Congress party of the Punjab dubbed these very legislature measures as black legislation काले कानून. But the tenants who were to be benefited by this legislation called it as their golden legislation 'सुनेहेरी कानून'. What happened afterwards is known to every hon. Member. The tenants have not forgotten the treatment that was meted out to them at that time and they still have it in their minds. May I know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to safeguard their interests? If a person wants to plead their cause, he is not advised by the Government to do so. In fact nobody is permitted to have his say in the interests of the poor tenants.

Sardar Swaran Singh : What is the job of the hon. Member these days?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am pained to see that nothing is being done for the poor tenants who have been reduced to poverty and misery, so much so that they have been forced to work as hewers of wood and drawers of water. I wish to bring this point to the notice of the Government in general and my hon. Friend in particular that under the changed conditions if they do not follow the fundamentals of democracy namely liberty, fraternity and equality and also if they do not follow the articles of the Constitution rightly then I am afraid, they would themselves be responsible for burying this very Constitution for which they have strived and struggled all through their lives.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is the hon. Member accepting the Constitution to-day?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Perhaps the hon. Member forgets that I am one of those who has taken an oath in this connection.

Mr. Speaker : He has also taken an oath.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : His party disclaims the Constitution.

Sardar Bachan Singh : When a person feels nervous he does not remember what he had said.

What I wish to point out is that tenancy problem exists everywhere in India. It exists in U. P., Bihar and other States.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Are there any tenancy problems in the district of the hon. Member?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member should know that I am not speaking for Ludhiana, but I am speaking for the whole of the Punjab. (*Hear, Hear*).

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : He may begin to speak on behalf of Bombay and Calcutta.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends in general and my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh in particular that the tenancy problem is not so acute in our State as it is in other States. It is not the problem of tenancy alone which we have to face. But there are certain other points which I have already stated, If we ignore these points, I may assure them, we will land in trouble and it may be well neigh impossible for us to face these problems though they seem to be very minor problems at present.

[**Sardar Bachan Singh**]

Sir, we are not demanding the abolition of landlordism just now. All that we want is that the law of ejectment that applies to tenants in Urban areas, should also be made applicable to tenants in the rural areas.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Is it not a fact that even in towns the landlords can get the premises vacated, if they need them for personal use?

Sardar Bachan Singh : We don't oppose the ejectment of a tenant from 10 to 12 acres of land, which the landlord himself wants to till but first of all he should furnish sufficient proof of his desire to do so. We are opposed to the ejectment of tenants from land, which is proposed to be ploughed with the help of tractors. We cannot tolerate hundreds of persons being thrown out of employment and thus deprived of their only source of livelihood. The interests of the larger number of people must have precedence over the interests of the few. (*Cheers from opposition Benches*). In this connection, we have not made any radical or revolutionary suggestions to the Government. We have only recommended to the Government to take effective measures to give protection to the poor tenants. When even this small thing cannot be expected of this Government, who can expect it to go further, so as to be abreast of the fast-moving times? Take the example of the Japanese feudal class. Why not take the example set up by the princes of the Indian States who have voluntarily and with good grace signed pacts, agreeing to surrender their powers and privileges? Only if friends like Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish agree to surrender their rights voluntarily, they would surely be shown liberality in the matter of 'terms'. The whole country demands it. Our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, desires it most earnestly. But if the landlords think that they can go on deferring this issue, I must tell them that they are labouring under a delusion and if it came to decide the issue by force, it would prove a bad bargain for them. Their insistence on having their own terms would cost them dearly. I would, therefore, ask them to agree to the settlement of the issue by negotiations and constitutional methods. It is in their own interests.

Sir, luckily the agrarian problem in this province has not as yet assumed a very acute form. The only demand of the tenants is that they should be given land to till. They are prepared to wait patiently for the findings of the Agrarian Committee set up by the Congress High Command and the decisions that will be taken by the Government of India on its recommendations. But I would request my landlord friends not to aggravate the gravity of the problem at this stage, for any conflict on this issue would impede the progress of the whole Country. It is the greatest need of the time that our country may achieve success in attaining self-sufficiency in food. Any agrarian trouble at this moment would surely upset the "Grow More Food" schemes and its ultimate results would be fraught with grievous consequences for the whole country. This resolution is absolutely of an innocuous kind.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : But it is vague.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, it is not vague. We only want that ejectment of tenants should stop. It is the duty of this Government to bring legislation before this House to this effect, as early as possible. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Partap Singh (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have listened carefully to the speeches of the mover as well as of the supporters of the resolution that is now before the House. One thing that has particu-

arly struck me is that what is given in the resolution has not been mentioned in the speeches, and what has been verbally discussed is not to be found anywhere in the language of the resolution. (*Laughter*). Sir, it is a matter for regret that the mover of the resolution while framing it does not appear to have consulted any body and that is why its wording is to say the least unhappy. If the contents of the resolution had been what has been stated in the speeches, there would have been no contention whatsoever.

Sardar Bachan Singh : We only want that there should be no ejection.

Sardar Partap Singh : Who says that the Government is not alive to the importance of this issue or that it will not do anything in the matter? So far as the views of Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru are concerned who can claim to know them better than we do, we who have enshrined them in the innermost recesses of our hearts. (*Cheers*). Who can say that he is more concerned about the success of 'Grow More Food' scheme than ourselves?

Sir, my submission is, and it is with great sorrow that I make it, that the agrarian problem—the problem of landlords *versus* tenants has been made worse as a result of irresponsible speeches and utterances the like of which we have heard on the floor of this House to-day. It is in all sincerity that we are so anxious to find an amicable settlement of this issue. It was the Congress which became alive to its importance, before any body else and it is the Congress which is more anxious than anyone else to settle it. Though I am not a spokesman of the Punjab Government, I can assure this Honourable House on this basis of my personal knowledge that it is not sleeping over the matter. Through you, Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that legislation with a view to maintaining good relations between the landlords and the tenants will be brought before the House in this very session.

I submit, Sir, that the resolution my hon. Friend over there has moved lacks all sense of propriety, far-sightedness and wisdom, which is the logical outcome of his sitting alone, and not as a member of some organization. If he had been a member of some organization, his resolution would have reflected collective wisdom and would not have been subject to all manner of objection owing to its unhappy wording and framing. How truly does the Punjabi proverb apply here!

ਜਮਾਤ ਕਰਾਮਾਤ ਕੱਲੇ ਦੀ ਟੈਂ ਟੈਂ (*Laughter*)

जमात करामात कले दी टैं टैं

In their speeches, they say that they do not want to deprive the landlords of their land but in the resolution the wording is "All ejections of tenants be stopped till the land tenure system in the Punjab is revised and landlordism abolished. What an unwise thing—I mean this disparity! They have said that if this resolution is not passed, India will go the way of China. I say if this resolution is given effect to, it will lead to bloodshed and give the signal for internecine strife worse than what took place in China. (*Cheers*).

[Sardar Partap Singh]

My friends over there little seem to realize that this resolution is full of potential mischief and explosive possibilities. There are hundreds of small proprietors who have taken to other vocation such as the military service, leaving their land to be tilled by their kith and kin—brothers and nephews. Then there is the land belonging to orphans and widows, which is being tilled by their male relatives—uncles and brothers-in-law. What is after all their intention in saying that all ejectments should stop? Don't they realize that this province is largely a land of small peasant proprietors, who are either cultivating their holdings themselves or have given it to their near relatives? Sir, my submission is that there could not have been a greater blunder, a more mischievous error, than that which has been committed by bringing this resolution before the House. (*Loud cheers*). All the major issues involved in the problem have been conveniently ignored by the supporters of this resolution, in their anxiety to win cheap popularity. No effort has been made to understand its true implications; how it will affect the minors, the widows, the uncles who are tilling nephews' land and so on; how it will have any bearing on the the peasant proprietors and small landlords whose holdings are 'uneconomic' and so on. I feel Sir, that the little good that was intended to be done by this resolution has been marred by improperly wording it. Only if proper language had been used and some sense of responsibility shown, the mover and the supporters of this resolution would have earned the gratitude of many people.

Sir, if effect is given to this resolution, it will lead to a civil war in the State. There would be bloodshed amongst brothers in the districts of Amritsar, Gurgaon, Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and some parts of Rohtak and Karnal and in the Tehsil Rupar and Kharar where people hold small holdings to earn their livelihood. It will disturb the peace and tranquillity of the State. I feel sorry to say that my honourable Friend representing Kasur constituency should not have raised this question as the problem of tenants was not so acute in Kasur tehsil. But all the same we have to solve this problem. Similarly my honourable Friend Sardar Bachan Singh who represents Ludhiana rural constituency has supported the resolution merely because he has resigned from Congress Assembly Party and now sits upon the opposition benches. He should not have lent his support to this resolution as I know that tenant problem does not exist in Ludhiana as well. We know well how this problem can be amicably settled between landlords and tenants. Anyhow there is no cause to feel perturbed over this problem as it is simple though it may appear to be somewhat complex. I know that the parties who deliver speeches are only creating wide gulf between the landlords and the tenants and thus worsening the situation. It is true that the Congress is pledged to ameliorate the lot of tenants but it has never said that the tenants will be made the proprietors of land occupied by them by any fraudulent means to the detriment of the interests of landlords. As a matter of fact we should create such conditions in the State that may help in the solution of the problem in a satisfactory way. Those people who claim to be enthusiastic champions of the interests of tenant class only want to stimulate unrest among both the sections of people. On the one hand they provoke the landlords that their land is going to be snatched away under the Congress Government regime and on the other hand they instigate the tenants to stop payment of land revenue as the Government is not safeguarding their interests. Such fissiparous tendencies are doing incalculable harm to the people living in villages especially in the border State like ours. Such people are in fact fifth-columnists in the State and their activities must be condemned unreserved-

ly. These people pose themselves to be great sympathisers of landlords also and they should not forget that nothing will be done to operate to the detriment of the interests of landlords and that they (landlords) would in no case be deprived of their proprietary rights of the land owned by them. Such conditions will be created in the State in which agriculture may not have any set-back. The allotment of land that has been made to the persons does not confer upon them any right, title or interest in the land for ever but the Government may adjust such land against the compensation they might get in lieu of the land left behind by them in case any settlement is arrived at with the Pakistan Government. The number of such persons who owned more than 250 acres of land in Pakistan is 2244. The total area of land that has been allotted is 13,40,427, acres. There are 272 allottees who have been allotted more than 250 acres of land and the total area of such land comes to 85, 968 acres.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Heretofore, the hon. Chief Minister used to make "*laralapa*" in his speeches, but now my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh is doing the same.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. lady Member should know what she is talking.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What does this "*laralapa*" mean ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, it means wild promises.

Sardar Partap Singh : Sir, it is not "*laralapa*," as the hon. Lady Member has remarked but a genuine desire to solve this problem. But it requires understanding, patience, courage and forbearance to solve this problem and if my hon. Friends would show this moral rectitude, they would surely find a solution of this problem. When the Deputy Speaker was occupying the Chair, my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh had remarked that he was not returned on the Congress ticket. But may I ask him that if it were not so, why did he avail of the facilities provided by the Congress including the use of Congress lorry ? If a person after being elected signs the Congress pledge, he becomes a full-fledged member of the Congress. Then he became a Parliamentary Secretary. Under these circumstances, he having signed a pledge of a party and enjoyed fruits of advantages, how could he refuse to remain under Congress discipline ? (*Interruptions*).

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, many irrelevant things have been introduced in the discussion and I am prepared to refute the allegations that have been made by my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh during the course of his speech.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think that point need not be pressed now.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Friday, 17th March 1950.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 84

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

17th March 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 17th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS

***1462. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state when the Government proposes to take in hand the work of Consolidation of Holdings ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Government has decided to take in hand work of Consolidation on a large scale during the financial year 1950-51. Money for it has been provided in the budget.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when the Government actually proposes to take in hand the work of consolidation of holdings whether it would be before the commencement of the financial year, during it or after this year is out ?

Minister : The work has already been started in certain districts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : As the hon. Minister says that the work of consolidation of holdings has been taken in hand, do I take it that the personnel required for this work, are on the job or they will soon be put on the job ?

Minister : At certain places they are doing the work and at others they will soon take the work in hand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know in which districts the work of consolidation has been started ?

Minister : I require notice for that. But I may tell him that the work is done in groups of villages. They first fix up their headquarter or a central place and start their operations from that centre.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know the districts in which the work has been started ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, the necessary information will be collected.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the hon. Minister any idea whether the work is in progress in one district or in more than one district ?

Minister : The work has been started in more than one district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether it has been started in the Rohtak district or in any districts of the Haryana Prant ?

Minister : Notice is required for collecting this information.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon. Minister please tell us as to which of the districts, out of the six mentioned in the Budget, have been selected for the work of consolidation of holdings ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It has been provided in the Budget that the work of consolidation of holdings is to be taken up in six districts. May I know whether the work has been started in these districts only or in some other district also ?

Minister : The intention of the Government is to start the work in all the districts except Simla and Kangra.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since the consolidation work has been taken in hand, should I take it that the patwaris till recently busy with allotment of lands have become free to be utilised for this job ?

Minister : The hon. Member's conjecture is correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any officer has been appointed to organise this work ?

Minister : Yes, a Director has been appointed and besides the services of certain officers of the Cooperative Department, who are well versed in this work, have been placed under him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do I take it that a new department has been set up to carry out the work of consolidation of holdings ?

Minister : Yes please.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know whether at places where consolidation of holdings has been started, applications will be invited by Government from zamindars for getting their holdings consolidated or Government will do this job of their own accord ?

Minister : Since consolidation of holdings is to be done on compulsory basis, it is not necessary for any person to apply for the purpose of consolidation of his holdings. However, the Government reserves the right of discretion in the matter.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether any training in the work of consolidation of holdings, has been imparted to anybody, for purposes of utilising his services in this work which is likely to expand very much ?

Minister : Government have trained personnel who impart training to other persons attached with them in the execution of the work.

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

***1468 Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of students who completed their training up-to-date in the Government Industrial Training School, Rohtak, in its different departments since 15th August, 1947 ;
- (b) the total amount spent on the school during this period ;
- (c) the manner in which the training imparted by the Industrial School, helped the students to find employment or set up their own business ;
- (d) whether the recommendations of the Prabh Singh Committee formed for the purpose have since been implemented ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Owing to the mass migration of Muslims to the West Punjab, after the partition, there were only 4 students on the roll of Government Industrial School, Rohtak and out of these 3 have completed their training. 57 students joined subsequently. As the course of training extends over 2 years, these students will complete their training by 1950.
- (b) Total amount spent on the School during this period is Rs. 68,094/- but a sum of Rs. 23141/- has been realized on account of sale proceeds of the manufactured articles. This reduces the net expenditure to Rs. 44,953/- only.
- (c) One of the passed out students, has secured service and the other two have started their own business.
- (d) The matter is receiving attention of Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The reply to part (d) of the question has been given that 'the matter is receiving attention of the Government'. I want to know since how long the Prabh Singh Committee Report has been under the consideration of the Government ?

Minister : Since when it was received by the Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I want a definite reply, just as my question is definite. The reply of the hon. Minister is evasive. I request the hon. Speaker to ask him to give a definite reply to my question.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** My difficulty is that I cannot compel an hon. Minister.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated in the reply that there were only four students studying there. May I know the number of teachers employed to impart training to them ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh : What is the number of Hindu students receiving training there ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected for him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that only 4 students were receiving training in the said Industrial School and the Government had to incur an expenditure amounting to Rs. 68000/- for its maintenance, will the hon. Minister please state whether it is intended to save this money from being wasted ?

Minister : After partition the Muslim students had left and only four Hindu Sikh students remained. Since the object of the Government was not to close this institution, but to continue it, it was decided not to dispense with the services of the teaching staff. Afterwards the number of students rose, as I have already stated it has gone up to 57. In view of this it is not the intention of the Government to apply any cut in the expenditure.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do I take it that the number of students was reduced to 4 as a result of the exit of the Muslim students or that the Hindu and Sikh students had also left the institution due to bad management ?

Minister : Since the hon. Member belongs to that place, he knows better whether the arrangements in the school were good or bad or whether and why only 4 Hindu and Sikh students were left.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know since when the responsibility of imparting such information had been passed on to the hon. Members ?

Minister : Ever since the Members have begun to ask such questions.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that even before partition of the province the number of students in that school was not more than a dozen ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether Government received any complaints regarding the non-supply of necessary materials required for training ?

Minister : No such complaint has so far come to my notice.

DEPOSITS OF HINDUS AND SIKHS IN THE CO-OPERATIVE BANKS, PUNJAB (PAKISTAN).

***1542. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of money belonging to Hindu and Sikh depositors lying as deposits in the Co-operative or Zamindara Bank (now in West Punjab) at the time of partition ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Hindu and Sikh depositors have sent innumerable representations to the Government for the refund of their deposits referred to above ;
- (c) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government for receiving the refund of the deposits ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) Rs. 59, 81, 313/-/-

(b) Yes.

(c) This Government have been pursuing the question of refund of this amount with the West Punjab authorities at Dominion level. An Inter-Dominion Agreement on Banking was reached at Lahore on the 22nd and 23rd April, 1949, and the terms of this agreeemnt are still in the process of implementation. The West Punjab Government have yet to refund these deposits along with other amounts due from them on account of Securities etc. of Cooperative institutions in this State and the matter has been referred to the Government of Pakistan through the Government of India.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it a fact that banks have received some payments out of the amount of Rs 11,16,00,000 left by the Muslims ?

Minister : We have received some bank securities.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it the intention of the Government to give any money to Hindu and Sikh depositors against the security of the amount of Rs. 11,16,00,000 left by the Muslims here ?

Minister : The amount referred to by the hon. Member was deposited in the Punjab Provincial banks. All the amount is not lying with us. However, efforts are being made to get the amount left over there.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it the intention of the Government to make the payments in case no payments are made by the West Punjab Government ?

Minister : This will be decided according to the policy which would be laid down by the Government.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it a fact that the Government has not laid down any policy so far ?

Minister : The policy has to be laid down by the Central Government and not by our Government.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In view of the fact that co-operative banks in general and the ordinary banks have suffered a great loss, is it the intention of the Government to press for the recovery of the deposits of Hindus and Sikhs lying in the co-operative Banks in Pakistan ?

Minister : When we want to decide about the Co-operative institutions with the Pakistan Government then they take up the questions of banks and vice versa.

Sardar Partap Singh : Has the Government thought it fit to take any retaliatory measures ?

Minister : It is not in our power to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it within the power of the hon. Minister to do so ?

Minister : I have already stated that.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

* 1546. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the "Grow More Food Campaign" in the state ;

(b) the results of this Campaign, if any ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) A Cabinet Sub Committee has been constituted in order to arrive at quick decisions and provide the necessary link between the various Departments in the execution of Grow More Food Schemes. A Director of Food Production has been appointed to control and supervise the progress of the Campaign in the State. The Deputy Commissioners have been made wholly and solely responsible for the success of the Campaign in their districts. To assist the Deputy Commissioners in this work, District, Tahsil and Village Food Production Committees have been organised, the membership of which consists of officials as well as non-officials. Besides, Government have sanctioned a number of schemes such as Extension of irrigation from Canals, sinking of wells, construction of Tubewells, manufacture of compost in villages and by Municipal Committees, Reclamation and Mechanical cultivation of Land, Anti Erosion and Soil Conservation etc. etc. During the year 1949-50 about Rs. 160 lakhs will be spent in the execution of these schemes. Another sum of about Rs. 186 lakhs would be spent during 1950-51 in furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign.

2. In order to provide necessary fillip to the Campaign about a dozen legislations have been enacted such as East Punjab Seeds and Seedlings Act, East Punjab Diseases, Pests and Noxious Weeds Act, East Punjab Reclamation of Land Act, East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Act, East Punjab Municipal and Small Town Compost Act etc. etc.

(b) Additional irrigation from Canals has been provided to about 2 lakh acres of land during 1949-50 and it will increase to 3,45,000 acres during kharif and Rabi 1950-51. This will result in additional yield of food about 40,000 tons during 1949-50 and about 70,000 tons during 1950-51. The other schemes are estimated to give an additional yield of 20,000 tons during 1949-50 and about 50,000 tons during 1950-51. In calculating these figures, the additional yield expected to accrue from such schemes as destruction of monkeys, rats and jackals, domestication of wild cows, pitting of manure etc. has not been taken into consideration, as it is not possible to do so with accuracy.

Shri Virendra : How much is the deficit of foodgrains in our province ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May I know if all the schemes in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign are in name only ?

Minister : The hon. Member will know that shortly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since when have these schemes been taken into hand ?

Minister : Since April 1949.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the zamindars have been receiving any subsidy since this scheme has been taken into hand. Has the subsidy been stopped ?

Minister : Subsidies have not been stopped and they have been receiving them as usual.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It has been stated by the hon. Minister that so much quantity of foodgrains was produced in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. May I know if this increase in the production of foodgrains is due to the canal water or rain water ?

Minister : Due to both.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that we had rainfall in time as a result of which we were able to produce more. In the light of this fact, may I know if the Grow More Food Campaign is only a stunt ?

Minister : The increased production of foodgrains is dependent upon both the rain water and canal water.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : How many monkeys have been destroyed ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that plantation of flowers has been stopped under the Grow More Food Scheme ? Is it a fact that rains have also stopped immediately after stopping the plantation of flowers ?

Shri Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that Advisory Committees have been set up in the districts and tehsils in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign ?

Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know as to how much quantity of foodgrains has been produced under the Grow More Food Campaign except that quantity which has been produced due to availability of more canal or rain water ?

Minister : I require notice.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know if the zamindars have been ensured of the prices of their foodgrains even in the event of any fall in the prices ?

Minister : Such steps are taken after discussing the matter with the Central Government. However, Growers would not suffer any loss

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, the rates that are fixed by the Government of India are only the maximum prices. May I know if in view of the fact that the zamindars are now giving up cultivation of 'money crops' and are paying more attention towards growing foodgrains in pursuance of the 'Grow More Food' drive of the Government, the Government intends taking any steps with a view to ensuring that the prices of foodgrains do not fall below a certain minimum ?

Minister : The Government has never lost sight of this consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government received any complaints, that flatterers and 'toadies' of old type have been appointed members of these committees and that publicmen of nationalist views have been ignored?

✓ **Mr Speaker :** This can be discussed when the particular demand comes before the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, it is not for any personal reason that I am asking this question. It is in public interest, that persons holding nationalist views should be appointed to these committees.

Chief Minister : Sir, if everybody who co-operates with the Government is considered to be a 'toady', then all Congressmen would be toadies. (*Laughter.*)

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Not all. There are a few such persons among them.

IRON AND IRON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

*1560. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to State :—

- (a) the weight of iron and iron agricultural implements, together with the number of each kind of such implements, supplied to the district of Ambala for the use of the cultivators of the district ;
- (b) the quantity of such supplies to each of the Agricultural Assistants tehsil-wise together with the names and addresses of the cultivators who obtained the tools and implements from each of the Agricultural Assistants;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the quantity of iron tools and implements supplied for agricultural purposes to the above district were insufficient, if so, what action, if any, was taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) (i) About 345 tons of iron for big implements like persian wheels, buckets etc. has been released to the fabricators of Ambala district for Ambala, Jagadhri, Morinda, Kharar and Rupar during the last four quarters as under:—

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|------|
| 4th quarter | 1948 (Oct.—Dec.) | 93—13—0—0 | tons |
| 1st | „ „ 1949 (Jan—March) | 110—9—2—0 | tons |
| 2nd | „ „ 1949 (April—June) | 51—1—1—0 | tons |
| 3rd | „ „ 1949 (July—Sept) | 90—12—0—0 | tons |

Total 345—15—3—0 tons

The same weight after giving reasonable shortage to the fabricators is taken back in the form of manufactured goods to be supplied to the cultivators.

- (ii) In addition to the above, 50 tons of iron for small implements, like phallas for desi ploughs, spades etc. has been released for Ambala district and disposal instruction for 50 tons of iron more for cart wheels, phallas for desi ploughs Halls etc. have been issued for this district. Thus in all about 445 tons of iron has been allotted to this district.
- (b) A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the table†
- (c) 4758 tons of iron has been allotted for the 4th period, 1949 (Oct—Dec) but it has not been received so far. As soon as this supply is received it will be immediately released to the fabricators and thus there will be no shortage of implements.

GROW MORE FOOD DRIVE IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

*1561. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to State :—

- (a) the amount spent by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala in connection with the “ Grow More Food Drive ” in the district since the formation of the District Food Production Committees ;
- (b) the amount of work done by these Committees in each Tahsil and the amount spent there-on separately ;
- (c) the names and designations of officers of the Ambala District who actually took part in the above mentioned drive and the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the said Officer upto the end of February, 1950 ;
- (d) the number of vehicles supplied by the Government to the Ambala district for this purpose and the names and designation of the officer under whose charge the vehicles have been put ;
- (e) the amount spent on the purchase of petrol for each of such vehicles ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Rs. 21, 894/9/3 spent upto the 28th February, 1950 in respect of staff and cost of vehicles purchased etc.
- (b) The Committees have convened meetings, discussed local problems of food production and prepared plans to execute such work in an effective manner. No amount has been spent on these Committees.

| (c) (i) S. No. | Name of Officer. | Designation. |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | N. Sehgal Esq. I. C. S. | Deputy Commissioner. |
| 2. | S. Umrao Singh, P. A. S. | E. A. D. A. Ambala. |
| 3. | S. Harkishan Singh P.C.S. | S. D. O. (Civil) Rupar. |
| 4. | Sh. Kanwar Bhan., | Revenue. Assistant. |
| 5. | S. Thakar Singh. | Civil Surgeon. |

†Kept in the library

[Minister for Development,]

S. No. Name of Officer

Designation

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 6. S. Balbir Singh. | Supdt. Civil Veterinary Department. |
| 7. S. Thakar Singh. | Asstt. Registrar, Cooperative Societies, West. |
| 8. Shri. C. K. Bannerjee. | Asstt. Registrar, Cooperative Societies, East. |
| 9. Ch. Khazan Singh. | District Inspector of Schools. |
| 10. Dr. J.R. Chaudhri | District Medical officer of Health. |
| 11. S. Chet Singh | Secretary, District Board, Ambala. |
| 12. Shri Balram Bhandari. | District Food Controller, Ambala. |
| 13. S. Narinjan Singh. | District Publicity Officer, Ambala. |
| 14. S. Jalmeja Singh, | Divisional Forest Officer, Ambala. |
| 15. L. Harikishan Bajaj. | Panchayat Officer, Ambala. |

(ii) No T. A. has been drawn by these officers specifically for Grow More Food work. This work is being done by them in the course of their normal duties.

(d) (i) 2 Vehicles

(ii) Shri N. Sehgal, I. C. S., D. C., Ambala.

(e) Rs. 1021/14/9 has been spent upto 28. 2. 50 on the purchase of petrol for one vehicle. The second vehicle has been purchased recently.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the District and Tehsil Food Production Committees in Ambala district, have been formed by the Government or by nomination by the Deputy Commissioner ?

Minister : By the local authorities.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are there any general instructions in force, or have any special instructions been issued with regard to the composition of these committees ?

Minister : General instructions were issued, that such committees should be formed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government giving the local authorities an entirely free hand, as to the composition and strength of these committees and the proportion of officials and non-officials on them ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a general question.

CHO-RECLAMATION SCHEME IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

***1565. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some short-term proposals were made by the Cho-Reclamation Committee at its meeting held at Hoshiarpur sometime back ; if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ;

- (b) the total amount of money allocated by the Government for the scheme of Cho-Reclamation in the Hoshiarpur district ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

- (a) Yes Most of the recommendations have been accepted and the Chief Conservator of Forests, and Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur have been asked to take necessary steps to implement them.
- (b) Rs. 28, 000/- have been provided for the current financial year.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May I know if the bulldozers will be made available in connection with the Cho-Reclamation scheme ?

Minister : Those which have been secured in connection with "Grow More Food" schemes, will also be made available for this purpose.

CH. BHIM SINGH, DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICER, FEROZEEPUR.

***1433. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to some strictures passed about Chaudhri Bhim Singh, District Electoral Officer, Ferozepur, and S. Amarjit Singh Tehsildar, Moga, by the Election Petitions Tribunal while disposing of the Election Petition of S. Kartar Singh against S. Rattan Singh, M. L. A., as published in East Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 9th September, 1949 ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken by the Government or is proposed to be taken against the aforesaid officers ;
- (c) whether my letter No. 1997, dated 9th December, 1949 on the subject referred to above was received by the hon. Premier on or about the 12th December, 1949 ; and whether on that letter any enquiry was ordered, and if so, with what results ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

- (b) The explanation of Ch. Bhim Singh was called for and considered by Government. As his explanation was found to be satisfactory, no action was taken against him. S. Amarjit Singh, the then Tehsildar, Moga was killed during the disturbances following the partition and the question of taking action against him does not arise.
- (c) The hon. Member's letter dated the 9th December, was received by Government on the 15th December 1949 when the matter was already under the consideration of Government. The result of the enquiry has been explained in part (b) above.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the hon. Chief Minister has perused the words. "Chandhri Bhim Singh went out of his way to help Sardar Rattan Singh"? Has he given consideration to this remark of the Tribunal?

Chief Minister : The Government has given consideration to the whole matter, which means everything that was conveyed to it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I had thought it might have escaped his notice.

Chief Minister : I have followed its meaning all right. The hon. Member need not worry.

COLLECTIVE FINES.

***1484. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) what efforts, if any, have been made by the Government for the recovery of the collective fines imposed on the various areas referred to in a statement accompanying the reply to un-starred question No. 252 if so, with what results ;
- (b) whether the arrears upto 30-9-1949 of the collective fines, have been realised if so, the amount realised from each area between 1-10-49 and 28-2-50 ;
- (c) whether no such fine was realised from the districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Ludhiana upto 30-9-49 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the decision, if any, which the Government has arrived at regarding the refund of the collective fines realised in view of the reply to un-starred question No. 252 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) (b) & (c) Recoveries have been stopped pending further examination of the whole matter. No collective fine was, however, imposed in the Hissar District.

(d) No decision has yet been arrived at.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : This matter of recovery of the collective fines has been under the consideration of the Government for the last two years, may I know how much time will it take more ?

Chief Minister : The Government will take a decision in the matter in due course.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know under what considerations the Government exempted Rohtak district. A collective fine of rupees four lakhs was to be realised from that district but not a single penny has been recovered so far ?

Chief Minister : That district has not been exempted but the matter has been postponed till further consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Which are those fines, the recovery of which has been stopped or postponed ?

Chief Minister : I will furnish the necessary details, if the hon. Member gives fresh notice of the question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know from which districts the collective fines have not been realised ?

Chief Minister : The recoveries in respect of districts mentioned in part (c) of the question have been postponed pending further consideration.

REINSTATEMENT OF VILLAGE HEADMEN AND GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DISMISSED BY BRITISH FOR POLITICAL REASONS

* 1435. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government for reinstating
(i) those village headmen or their heirs who were either dismissed for their sympathies with Congress, Kisan and Akali movements during the British regime or who had resigned during the non-co-operation movement of 1920-21
(ii) the names and number of the Government servants who were dismissed or made to resign by the British Government for their political activities ;

(b) whether it is proposed to restore to the Government servants their pensions forfeited by the British Government for their political activities ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) (i) The question of the re-instatement of village headmen or their heirs who were dismissed for political reasons during the British regime was considered but it was decided to drop the matter.

(ii) Such information is not available with us but efforts will be made to collect it from the records of the Government of the Punjab (Pakistan). The information, if any when available will be supplied to the hon. Member.

(b) Government have taken certain decisions with regard to the grant of the relief to ex-Government servants and ex-Government pensioners who were penalised for their patriotic activities. Those decisions were embodied in a press note, a copy of which is laid on the table† for ready reference. The claimants have been invited to prefer their claims to the Department concerned.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that these persons have submitted their claim for compensation to the Government ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives fresh notice of this question, necessary information will be supplied to him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that these persons who have submitted their claim have several times reminded the Government but no action has been taken by the Government. I understand that village headmen belonging to Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts sent so many representations and also many reminders to this effect ?

†Kept in the Library.

Chief Minister : It does not mean that the Government have not considered their matter.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether it would not be possible for the Government to appoint these people or their heirs as village headmen ?

Chief Minister : Each case will be considered on its own merits. The dismissal in such cases does not constitute any disqualification for them to be again appointed as such in future.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it that this punishment of dismissal has been awarded because they were nationalists ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When efforts are being made to refund the amount of fine that had been imposed upon them and that their names are also not included in the black list, then may I know under what grounds these people cannot be appointed as village headmen again ?

Chief Minister : There are certain administrative difficulties as it is not possible to remove the present incumbents.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what are those administrative difficulties ?

Chief Minister : You will know when you take charge of the office.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government is prepared to grant any compensation to those headmen who were dismissed ?

Chief Minister : The question of compensation does not arise as these headmen only get 'Panjotra'.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it because of their number being very large that the Government has dropped the matter of granting any compensation to them ?

Chief Minister : I require notice

Chaudhri Sher Singh : May I know whether the cases of those who resigned will also be considered at the time of reinstating these people if there is no administrative difficulty for doing so ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any inconvenience has been experienced by the Revenue officers or the Police officers that discrimination has been shown between the village headmen who took part in the political activities and other persons charged with political activities ?

REDEMPTION AND PRE-EMPTION SUITS

*1436. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many redemption and preemption suits of the people now residing in the Patti area of the Amritsar district were pending in the civil and revenue courts of Kasur Sub-division and Lahore district including the Commissioner's Financial Commissioners and in the Lahore High Court before partition ;

- (b) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government for the transference of the files of the pending suits from Pakistan to East Punjab ; if so, with what result, if not the reasons therefor ;
- (c) what arrangements, if any, have been made by the Government for the transference of the deposits made in courts regarding the pending suits referred to above ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether any representations were received by the Government from the parties of the pending suits referred to above to get their cases transferred to East Punjab courts ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

- (b) & (c) The Inter-Dominion agreement of December, 1948, had enjoined the Dominions of India and Pakistan to refund court deposits by one Dominion to the nationals of the other. When written applications were actually forwarded to the West Punjab Government by our Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore, for passing necessary orders for refund, the West Punjab Government stated that the Courts in West Punjab could only sanction refunds when the applicants personally attended their courts and presented applications bearing the requisite amount of court-fee. Since both these conditions were very difficult to be fulfilled by our nationals, the matter was subsequently taken up by the Inter-Dominion Commission on Evacuee Property at their meeting held on 21st-23rd April, 1949, and the Commission recommended to the two Dominions to effect necessary modifications in law or procedure to ensure the refund of court deposits to the evacuees of either dominion without personal presence and on the deduction of a sum equivalent to the stamp duty chargeable on an application to be made to the court granting the refund. The matter has since been pending a settlement between India and Pakistan.
- (d) Some such requests were received and the Government of Punjab (Pakistan) was requested to transfer the files to this province.

SEARCH DEPOSITS.

* 1437. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any efforts have been made by the Government for the transference of the personal search deposits of the undertrials lying in the criminal courts at Kasur and Lahore before partition ;
- (b) the results of those efforts ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes. The general question of the transfer to this Province of deposits and valuables on account of cases pending in Criminal Courts in which the owners were non-Muslims including the personal search deposits of the under-trials undergoing trials in Courts in the united Punjab before partition was taken up with the representatives of the Punjab (Pakistan) Government at the meeting of the

[Chief Minister]

Punjab Partition Committee held at Lahore on the 18th and 19th November 1949. The representatives of Punjab (Pakistan) Government were of the view that the Punjab Partition Committee was not concerned with this item and it should be brought forward before a competent Forum. The competent Forum is the Inter-Dominion Implementation Committee which was decided to be set-up under the Inter-Dominion agreement of April, 1949. We are having correspondence with the Punjab (Pakistan) Government in regard to the meeting of the latter committee.

(b) Does not arise.

DEPOSITS IN REDEMPTION AND PRE-EMPTION SUITS OF NON-MUSLIMS OF LAHORE, KASUR AND CHUNIAN TEHSILS.

*1438. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that several redemption and preemption suits of non-Muslim residents of Kasur, Lahore and Chunian Tehsils of the Lahore District who migrated to India after partition were pending in the revenue and the civil courts at Kasur and Lahore ;
- (b) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government for the transference of the deposits made in courts in connection with the aforesaid cases ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

- (b) The Inter-Dominion agreement of December, 1948, had enjoined the Dominions of India and Pakistan to refund court deposits by one Dominion to the nationals of the other. When written applications were actually forwarded to the West Punjab Government by our Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore, for passing necessary orders for refund, the West Punjab Government stated that the Courts in West Punjab could only sanction refunds when the applicants personally attended their courts and presented application bearing the requisite amount of court-fee. Since both these conditions were very difficult to be fulfilled by our nationals, the matter was subsequently taken up by the Inter-Dominion Commission on Evacuee Property at their meeting held on 21st-23rd April, 1949, and Commission recommended to the two Dominions to effect necessary modifications in law or procedure to ensure the refund of court deposit to the evacuees of either dominion without personal presence and on the deduction of a sum equivalent to the stamp duty chargeable on an application to be made to the court granting the refund. The matter has since been pending a settlement between India and Pakistan.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND PETITION-WRITERS.

*1474. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number and names of the legal practitioners and the petition-

writers in the Punjab whose licenses were suspended or cancelled during the last two years together with the dates of suspension, particulars of charges, and the period of suspension in each case ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : There was no case in which the licence of any legal practitioner was suspended or cancelled during the last two years. As regards petition writers a statement containing the required information is attached. *

DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FROM BHAKRA DAM AND NANGAL PROJECT.

***1475. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state ?

- (a) whether any final decision has been arrived at about the distribution of water from Bhakra Dam for purposes of irrigation between the Punjab and the adjoining states ;
- (b) which parts of what districts in the Punjab are proposed to be irrigated by the Bhakra Dam ;
- (c) whether any areas in Tehsil Rohtak will also benefit by the above project ;
- (d) the time by which the landlords may expect water from Nangal for non-perennial irrigation ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) No final decision has been arrived at. Negotiations are in progress.
- (b) The following districts of the Punjab are proposed to be irrigated direct in whole or in part from the Bhakra Dam:

Jullundur
Ferozepore
Ludhiana
Karnal
Hissar
Ambala.

- (c) The Rohtak area that is at present being irrigated from the Western Jumna Canal will receive increased supply as a result of the part or complete transfer of Sirsa Branch from the Western Jumna to the Bhakra Dam Canals.
- (d) This depends upon the availability of funds. Government is making all efforts to secure as great an allotment as possible from the Government of India.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does the Government intend to supply water in particular areas of District Hissar or throughout the District ?

Chief Minister : Answer can be given on notice when Government is aware of the quantity of water that would be available,

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is the estimate of extra water that will be given to District Rohtak after the completion of Bhakra Dam ?

Chief Minister : This district will get water from the Sirsa Branch.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But what is the estimate of water that would be given ?

Chief Minister : That estimate would be possible when we know how much water is to be given to the three states.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Is it a fact that decision was taken to construct a canal from Thana Bala Chaur ?

Chief Minister : Answer can be given on notice.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : As Government has reduced the supply of water for District Rohtak from water of whole of Sirsa Branch to part of it, may I ask if there are any apprehensions that, that part may also vanish.

Chief Minister : That part will not vanish.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will Sirsa water be supplied to areas where water is being given already or to other areas as well ?

Chief Minister : Non-perennial area would be made perennial and if there is water it may go to other areas also.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does it mean that irrigated area will increase ?

Chief Minister : It will.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will water be supplied to those areas e. g., Tehsil Jhajjar which suffer for scarcity of rain ?

Chief Minister : It depends upon the level of the place.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will different districts named by the hon. Chief Minister have any order of preference in the matter of supply of water ?

Chief Minister : That also depends on the level of the different places.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : Has any survey been undertaken for ascertaining level of different places ?

Chief Minister : Survey is being done.

ELECTORAL ROLLS.

* 1478. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has received a copy of the resolution of the Punjab Provincial Congress Working Committee, passed in its meeting held on 9th January, 1950, requesting the Government to proceed with the preparation of Electoral Rolls after the refugee population has been finally settled on land and after the camps are completely dispersed i.e. after June, 1950 ; if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : As an electoral roll has been prepared only recently at a considerable cost, Government do not propose to have a fresh roll prepared as suggested by the hon. Member. They have

however moved the Government of India to make a provision in the New Electoral law authorising the transfer of the name of a displaced person entered in one constituency to another constituency.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will not the Government consider the advisability of preparing the electoral rolls after those still living in camps and about 50% population of every district which has been dislocated owing to rehabilitation schemes have been properly settled?

Chief Minister : That is a request.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the electoral rolls be completely revised or only an addendum shall be issued by the Government?

Chief Minister : If changes are too many the rolls may be wholly revised otherwise an addendum will do.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Persons who have shifted from one constituency to another can be accommodated but what about those who have left the State as we could not give them accommodation?

Chief Minister : If such people apply the applications will be considered and they will be included in the rolls.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Could not the Government set up an agency which should register the names of such people as the scheme of inviting applications from individuals appears impracticable?

Chief Minister : Government would consider if a regular proposal is made.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I wish to remind the hon. Chief Minister that a request in this connection has already been made. Will it not be better if instead of appointing some individuals an agency is set up to help in this matter?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member makes a suggestion in writing, the Government will consider it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has the Government considered the request made by the Provincial Congress Committee in this matter?

Chief Minister : The Government considers the requests received by it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has the Government taken any action on the requests already received?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Will the request made by the Provincial Congress Committee be treated in the same manner in which individual requests are treated?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member so desires the government will have no objection.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Request made by the Provincial Congress Committee is not an ordinary request.

Chief Minister : hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar enquired if the government would be prepared to consider any request that might be made to it and I replied that it would certainly be considered.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Shri Dev Raj Sethi has already made a request. What action has the Government taken on it? Is it essential that more requests should be made ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member enquired if the government was prepared to consider any request that would be made to it and I replied that the Government had no objection to do so. If some request has already been made, it will be certainly considered.

Sardar Swaran Singh : A large number of persons have gone out of the state and many have come here from outside. All of them will not take the pains of getting necessary corrections made in the Electoral Roll. Will it not be better if the Government sets up some machinery to do this work itself ?

Chief Minister : It would be very difficult to make fresh enrolment. If some institution wished to help the Government, we would ask our officers to make full use of that help.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In the case of private institutions it might be thought that these were acting with some political motive. Would it not be better if the Government sets up some non-political agency to do this work ?

Chief Minister : Everybody has a right to point out the mistakes and to get them corrected. If some person or organisation wishes to help in that matter, the Government will examine their request and make the necessary corrections.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Does the Government not realise that instead of making corrections on the basis of applications, more correct lists could be got prepared if an agency were established to do this work ?

Chief Minister : It would make no difference for the public whether the lists were prepared by some individuals or an agency. These will be regarded as incorrect to the same extent.

Sardar Swaran Singh : As everybody is not likely to apply for getting the necessary corrections made, would it not be better if the government itself undertook to make those changes which the transfer of population necessiated ?

Chief Minister : As I have already submitted it would be very difficult to prepare fresh Electoral Rolls.

Sardar Swaran Singh : How much help have the institutions given in the preparation of present Rolls ?

Chief Minister : Everybody including the hon'ble Members of this House was asked to help the Government in this matter and to give it widest possible publicity.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : In the case of persons living in Delhi, will it be possible for the Government to give them the choice to vote at that place as well as in this State, so that they may have the best of both the worlds.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that everybody including the institutions were asked to help in the preparation of Electoral Rolls. Did the Government give wide publicity to this fact and is it doing so now ?

Chief Minister : The Government did it as far as possible.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Did the Publicity Officers of the Government give it due publicity in their respective places ?

Chief Minister : Not only the Publicity Officers did so but I requested the hon. Members of this House also to give it wide publicity in their constituencies. What better publicity was possible ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Instead of requiring everybody to make an application, what objection has the Government to itself making those changes which are necessitated by the transfer of population on quasi-permanent allotment of lands ? Can't the Government do it on the basis of their record ?

Chief Minister : About four and a half lakh persons have been given quasi-permanent allotment scheme and there are about twelve lakhs of displaced persons among the voters. If the Government undertakes to make alterations on the basis of record of allotments, it would amount to preparation of fresh Electoral Rolls.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What objection has the government to entering the names of those persons who have been allotted land at a particular place in the rolls for that place and to remove them from those of the place where they had formerly settled ?

Chief Minister : If the Government has to do this work from the beginning, it would involve heavy expenditure and additional staff would have to be employed. If, however, action is taken on applications, the existing staff can do that work.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that making of supplementary arrangements would involve expenditure. Is he still preferred to consider any request that I might make in this connection ?

Chief Minister : Certainly. I am sure that the hon. Member will make some useful suggestion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : As the masses are illiterate, does the government consider the publicity given by it to be sufficient ?

Chief Minister : I have requested the hon. Members to help the Government in giving it necessary publicity. If they can't do it, what better arrangement can be made ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : When elections are to be held on the basis of adult franchise and the preparation of Electoral Rolls is sure to involve heavy expenditure, what harm is there if more money is spent in the matter of their correction ?

Chief Minister : If my hon. friends help the Government in this matter, the purpose would be served without extra expenditure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. An hon. Member remarked yesterday during the course of my speech that I had sold a car in black market. I did not take notice of that remark at that time. But after the meeting, I was asked by some people to clarify my position regarding that matter. I want to submit that I had a car even when I was not a member of the Assembly. Later on when I was jailed, that car was sold. Then again I purchased a car at controlled price in the united Punjab after getting a permit. After some time when control on cars was lifted, I purchased another car. In this way, I had two cars before the partition of the country. I therefore decided to sell off one car and sold the one purchased under a permit and there was no restriction on sale and price of such cars.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What price did the hon. Member get for that car ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can an hon. Member make a sufficiently lengthy speech on a point of personal explanation ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I sold the car to a friend of mine at a price lower than the market price ; and even if it was more than my cost, I don't think I have done anything illegal in this business. I have however no hesitation in saying that if in the opinion of the Government I have acted in an illegal manner, a case may be brought against me.

Chief Minister : To purchase a thing at controlled rate and then to sell it off at a higher price is nothing but black market.

Demands For Grants.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PROVINCIAL SCHEME OF STATE TRADING

Minister For Development : (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Sir I, move :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2, 59, 53, 800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of 85-A-Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2 59, 53, 800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of 85-A-Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

I have received a number of notices of cut motions on this Demand and following the previous practice I will ask Sardar Sajjan Singh to move his cut motion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, with your permission I want to ask whether under this Demand we can discuss the Civil Supplies Department as a whole or only the Food Procurement Scheme ?

Mr. Speaker : If Civil Supplies Department is included in this Demand you can discuss it; otherwise not.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order Sir. I want to draw your attention to Rule 142 which lays down:

Motions may be arranged in such order as the Speaker may, subject to the provisions contained in these Rules from time to time direct :

Provided that where several motions are moved to the same figure priority shall be given to the motion proposing the greatest reduction and the other motions shall be arranged in the descending order of the amounts of reduction proposed.

So priority is to be given to the motion proposing the greatest reduction and that has been done by Sardar Ajit Singh.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Unfortunately hon. Members are trying to out-bid one another to get priority to their cut motions. The position is this. When a motion for a token cut is moved, the hon. Member moving it can oppose the demand as a whole and while doing so he can discuss the general policy of the Government under that particular demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I only want to know whether the proviso to the rule is to be ignored or acted upon.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is open to the hon. Member to oppose the demand as a whole even without moving any cut motion. As I have already said, the general policy of the Government underlying a particular demand can be discussed on a cut motion for 100 rupees or less. If, however, the cut motion relates to particular item in the demand or a particular item has been sought to be deleted from the whole demand, discussion shall have to be restricted to that particular item in the demand.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

CIVIL SUPPLIES.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural (Hindustani) : Sir I move: That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/- I have certain reasons for making this motion. The Government has sought to get the sanction of the House on this Demand. While thinking over the policy of this Government I am reminded of the practice of a company of Khojas of Kasur, who could not get much profit on account of their social customs. In order to evade the custom, they had devised certain means. The father would sell things to his son after getting profit at the rate of one anna per rupee. The son in turn would get one anna profit by selling to his wife and the wife would get one anna of profit and sell it back to the father in law. In this way, they got profit at the rate of annas 4 per rupee. Our Government, I would like to submit, surpasses even those Khojas in deceit and cunning. It has put the greatest burden of taxation on the zamindars. In 1948 our Government decided to distribute food grains for seed purposed among the zamindars. The price at which the Government procured wheat in our District in the month of November was Rs. 13/14/10. The Department of Agriculture procured maximum wheat from our District and I consider it unfortunate that the farmers of Amritsar District surrendered wheat at such a low price. Government said that the cost price of wheat procured was Rs 21/1/9 and that it sold the wheat at Rs 21/9/4. Is it not playing a fraud upon the public to say that the wheat which the Government actually bought from the people at Rs 13/14/10 per maund, was bought at Rs 21/1/9 per maund and sold at Rs 21/9/4 per maund? May I ask the Government as to why this cleverness is played with the public? In this manner the Government earned

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Rs 33, 88, 903 from the wheat which it brought for Rs 16, 62, 697, thus getting a saving of about seventeen lakhs and twenty five thousand rupees. This profit was reaped by the Government at the expense of the poor farmers including the refugee farmers. This is what may be called the exploitation which this department has indulged in. If our state trading is to be of this type it is better that we should not have such a state trading at all.

In 1949 the maximum price of wheat fixed was Rs 14/- The Government agency sold wheat at Rs 16/1/- My submission is that if anybody else sells an article at an enhanced price he is termed a black-marketer and punished. But if the Government itself sells in the like manner no blame is given to it. When the Government does not find itself bound to any rules or laws why should we consider it necessary to supply funds to it? In this manner, we cannot allow the Government to indulge in this type of black marketing we oppose it with all the force at our command. When an ordinary black marketer is awarded a minimum of six month's imprisonment I think such officer of the Government should be given at least six years imprisonment. Why should the big persons escape? When the Government agency sells wheat at Rs 16/- instead of at Rs 14/- how can it serve the people of the State?

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : The Government has to bear the expenses also.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I admit this fact. But have not the private businessmen also to bear such expenses? They have no free aeroplanes running to carry their wheat from one place to another, nor do they get any money from foreign countries. They also spend on carrying wheat etc. to the market but still their rates appear to be reasonable as compared with those of the Government. In my opinion the policy which the Government is pursuing in this matter is quite wrong and harmful to the State. Whenever we desire to have any information from the Government we are misled. The statements vary from the actual facts. I think our Congress Ministers do not appear to have done away with the evil practices of the British imperialism. No policy, which can be of any real benefit to the ignorant villagers, is being put into practice the Government does not do anything for the people at large. There is nobody who can call it to question. Black-market is indulged in fearlessly and boldly. No body pays heed to the poor. Sir, I have stated about the apparent black-market of the Government. If we have to take into account the latent black-market we should note the following incident. In Moga sometime back, Bajra remained lying on the platform. Due to the shortage of wagons it was destroyed there. This is the efficiency of our Government although the establishment at its disposal is so large. The way in which the whole machinery of the Government is working is faulty.

Let us take into consideration, for example, the salaries of the Heads of the Departments on the one hand and those of the peons on the other. On comparison we find that whereas a Head of the Department is in the enjoyment of a salary of Rs. 1600/- per mensem, a poor peon gets a paltry sum of Rs. 20/8/- per month as his pay. If we calculate the disparity between the salary of a high officer and that of the peon, it will be seen that the former gets eighty times more than what the latter gets. Now, Sir, when I think of the small salaries of the peons or junior clerks, I fail to understand how these people manage to make their both ends meet, particularly when the cost of living at Simla is extremely high. So when living becomes difficult, it is but natural that the junior clerks or for the matter of that low paid Government Servants have to tap other avenues or

sources to augment their income. This source can be nothing else except that of getting money through illegal means i. e. corruption. In other words I feel that Government are themselves responsible for lowering the morale or character of the people. They should realise that unless low paid Government servants are not given a living wage, corruption cannot be extirpated from the State. I am constrained to remark that by launching trading schemes, Government have spoiled the morale of the public. I would again warn the Government that so long as they do not pay adequate salaries or living wages to their employees, corruption is bound to flourish and the character of the people will certainly be impaired, I therefore, request that the Civil Supplies Department should be reorganised in such a manner that each employee gets a living wage and is thus enabled to carry out his duties honestly. This will result in an improved and better working of the machinery of the Department. But I am pained to say that where "*bi-imane*" i. e. dishonesty is the mainstay of the employees and also where they are refused a living wage and are thus compelled to resort to dishonest ways of making money, honesty is bound to be conspicuous by its absence in that environment.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, is the word "*bi-imane*" parliamentary? The hon. Member has used it more than once.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Is it parliamentary? What is the opinion of the hon. Member?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I will bow to any ruling that you are pleased to give in this connection. If you think it parliamentary, well and good; but if you feel otherwise, I withdraw it.

Well, Sir, there is a glaring defect in this trading scheme. For instance Government are required to store large quantities of food grains like gram and wheat under it and the people are bound to accept them for consumption under the Rationing rules. Howsoever wheever these food-grains may be, the people cannot import food-grains of good quality from outside the rationed areas. Previously there used to be a rule that those people whose lands fell within the rationed areas, were allowed to bring their own produce to the extent to which they were entitled under the rules for purposes of consumption for one year. These people could eat their own produce but were debarred from drawing their rations from Government Ration depots. But since the introduction of the Rationing Scheme for the second time, this concession has been withdrawn. I would request the Government to renew this concession. They would not stand to suffer by doing so. They would rather be benefitted. The people who would bring foodgrains for consumption from their lands, would not draw their rations from the ration-depots. In other words this would result in a saving of food grains which could be utilised in meeting the requirements of others. But it appears that our Government is very much like that of a weak ploughman who is embarrassed by his uncontrollable and strong bullocks and not that of a powerful ploughman who controls his bullocks efficiently and makes them work according to his own desire. Similarly the officers of the Administration get things done as they desire. I think the very policy of the Government in this matter is wrong. I hope they would accede to my request and permit the people to import that wheat into the rationed areas which is grown in their own lands. I make this request because almost all the high officers and police officials infringe the rationing laws and import wheat from outside rationed areas for purposes of consumption. And the wheeveled wheat is thrust upon the poor people. I stayed at Amritsar for a year and a half,

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My conscience did not permit me to eat wheat by importing it from outside the rationed area. I consumed wheat distributed under rationing scheme irrespective of the fact that it was whevelled or otherwise, or it was of good or bad quality. But everybody does not do like that. Everybody tries to do hanky panky in the matter of importing wheat according to his means. I would suggest that Government should frame such rules as would not result in bringing about degradation in the character of the people, but would help to raise their heads and elevate their morals. I would like to say one thing more in this connection. There is a village Miani in my district of Amritsar. It is about a year that since the rationing of sugar started, the people of that place have not received their quota of sugar. What to talk of sugar, even ration cards have not been supplied to them. They have raised great hue and cry but their voice has been a voice in the wilderness. They complained to me about the non-availability of sugar ration cards and sugar itself. When I investigated the matter, I found that the Sub-Inspector under whose jurisdiction that ilaqa fell was the root cause of the trouble. He wanted the people to put their thumb impression on the ration cards first and fill the units of sugar afterwards. The people did not agree to this and the Sub-Inspector would not let the ration cards be prepared for one year.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, sir. The hon. Member is irrelevant. Now demand No. 37 is under discussion and it relates to the procurement scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Yes. The hon. Member should not refer to sugar, but confine his remarks to the Civil Supplies Department.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : My hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh need not worry. He should hear me patiently. There is no harm if I have made a mention of sugar. After all we have to place the difficulties of the people before the Government and none else. Well Sir, the aim of the Civil Supplies Department is commendable. It is to serve the people. This is undoubtedly a noble task but those who are at the helm of affairs of this department, should see that the ideal of service is not defeated by allowing the sugar to go into the black market. May I ask when the poor people do not get their quota of sugar, where does it go then? It finds its way to nowhere except the black market. It is very surprising that the poor people should not get their requirements of sugar and yet the register of the deponent should indicate that sugar has been drawn. Where could it go then? It goes straight to the black market.

Further the Government have made a provision of about Rs. 7,86,000. This amount is intended to be paid to the Central Government on account of foodgrains imported by them from abroad. This payment has to be made to the Central Government with a view to making up the deficiency caused by the import of foodgrains from abroad. In my opinion it would have been in the fitness of things if instead of making huge payments in connection with the import of foodgrains into our State from abroad, Government had provided adequate facilities to the zamindars for sinking as many tubewells as could be possible. Such a step on the part of the Government would surely have been instrumental in increasing the food production of our State. But I am really constrained to remark that the Government are not making any efforts whatsoever in this direction. Nowadays we find that Government are frittering away their energies on unimportant matters.

We also find a provision of Rs. 2,30,531 and Rs. 2,39,010 for the establishment of the department on account of salaries and allowances respectively. This is how huge amounts are being spent on the administration of the State. There is no gainsaying the fact that the administration of our State is top-heavy. My hon. Friends would be surprised to see that high officials are being given 'special pays' while poor Government servants for whom something substantial should have been done to improve their lot, continue to suffer as they hardly find it possible to make their both ends meet. It will not be out of place to mention here that the low-paid officials do not find any place in the list of the grantees of 'special pays'.

Minister For Labour : We do not get it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Perhaps the hon. Minister is unmindful of the fact that the hon. Ministers are entitled to T.A. at the rate of Rs. -/10/- per mile when they travel in their cars and when their cars return empty they are entitled to T.A. at the rate of Rs. -/4/- per mile. It is crystal clear from this that since the consumption of petrol in both the cases is the same, this difference of Rs. -/6/- per mile goes into the pockets of the hon. Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to request my hon'ble friends in general and my Government in particular (*An hon'ble Member*, But this is not the Government of the hon. Member,) Sir, what I wish to request the Government is that they should hold out this assurance to the people of our State that they would not conduct themselves in an objectionable manner, because the Government is meant to serve the people. Besides this department is not a "Beopari Mandi" which should be burdened with all sorts of taxes. If the Government continue to act in a manner in which they are conducting themselves at present, their prestige is bound to suffer. It is natural that this would offer an opportunity to us to criticise the Government. It is therefore but meet and proper on their part to devise ways and means to serve the people and serve them well. What I wish to point out is this that Government should not sell wheat to public at rates higher than the procurement rates. I am of the opinion and am at the same time I am within my rights to say that it is the bounden duty of the Government to serve the people in the true sense of the word. Under the circumstances Government should not hesitate to return the sum of Rs. 17,25,591 to the zamindars from whom this amount has been realized in excess. If it is not possible for them to return this amount, then they should not hesitate to spend maximum amounts for improving the lot of the zamindars. '*Gurmukho*' What I wish to point out is this.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, is the word '*Gurmukho*' for the legislators parliamentary?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friend that the word '*Gurmukho*' is not unparliamentary as it means 'gentlemen'. However if he does not like me to use this word, then I shall use the word '*Manmukho*'.

Sardar Swaran Singh : This probably is devil quoting scriptures.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, what I wish to point out is this that if the Government really realize that they are meant for the service of the people of the State in general and the poor people who constitute the majority of the population, in particular, then they should not be found lacking in improving their lot in the interests of both the Government and the State.

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This principle that the higher the post occupied by a person, the bigger his salary and the lower the post the lesser the emoluments, is in my opinion pernicious. By giving the lower officials inadequate remuneration for their work, the Government in a way forces them to sell away their integrity of character and leave the path of truthfulness. What else except indulgence in corrupt practices can be expected of a person who has five children to feed and give them education and also save something for procuring medical aid for them in case of illness, when with his salary he can hardly keep his own body and soul together? Poverty is a great curse. In this strange system of society, the bigger a person, the greater the number of comforts and the smaller a person the larger the number of worries and sorrows afflicting him. Sir, through you my submission to the Government is that it should appoint some commission to revise and refix the pay scales of all its employees in a manner which may ensure everybody at least a living wage so that they may be able to lead a happy and contented life and serve the public in right spirit.

Now I want to cite an instance to illustrate my point of view. Some-time back thousands of tons of bajra had got spoilt at Moga due to the failure of the officials of the Department to store it properly. The higher officers never go and see things for themselves and the lower officials did not report this matter to them lest they should be punished and dismissed for the negligence. So when the requisition of the Government of Bombay was received, they put the whole of the rotten stuff in the supplies of bajra that were to be sent to them, thinking that they did not stand to lose anything by doing so as it was to be consumed by others. Sir, what I mean to say is that so long as the subordinate employees are not given a living wage, it will be difficult to make them work in an honest and efficient manner.

Next, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to a genuine complaint of the rural people. Our Government purchases paddy from the peasants at the rate of Rs 10 per maund and in this way pays them Rs 30 for 3 maunds of paddy out of which the yield of rice is 2 maunds. This rice is supplied by the Government to the syndicate which sells it at the rate of Rs 21 per maund, while the peasant gets only Rs 15 for a maund. It is not proper to give so much margin of profit to the middlemen i. e., the syndicate. In my opinion, they should not be allowed a profit of more than Rs two to three per maund, as this results in a great injustice to the peasants who produce rice. The money that goes to the pockets of middlemen should either go to the zamindars or the Government coffers. The Monopoly Procurement Scheme of the Government is causing a great hardship to the zamindars and they are fed up with it. Under this scheme, the zamindars are forced to part with the foodgrains produced by them at low rates. Under the orders of the Government, no one can get his paddy husked without taking a permit. Now let me take a concrete example. For instance, the peasants of our village have first to go to Taran Taran to obtain a permit for getting their produce of paddy husked. Then they have to carry it to Patti. In this way, they have to traverse long distance ranging from ten to twelve miles quite unnecessarily, simply because the Government does not permit them to get their paddy husked at the village mill and without taking a permit, and thus they have to waste their time and energy for nothing. In my opinion, Sir, there is no justification for putting them to all this botheration. Why should they not be permitted to get the paddy husked at the mill nearest to their village on one or two appointed days, so that they may not have to undergo unnecessary botheration and walk several miles to obtain permits for this purpose? It should be the foremost concern of the Government to keep the comforts and convenience of the peasants in view in all matters.

With these submissions, Sir, I move this cut motion, and place it before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under Consideration motion moved ;

That the Demand be reduced by Rs 100/-

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, to-day we are discussing the traders' activities and functions that our Government has had to undertake as a result of wartime circumstances. Things had come to such a pass that necessities of life especially foodgrains became scarce and were not easily or at reasonable prices available to the people. The circumstances leading to the Bengal famine were an eye-opener not only to the governments in the country but through out the world. The policy of 'drift' in the matter of supply of food has had its frightful consequences. Only after the great famine of Bengal, the Government, both at the centre and the provinces became alive to the gravity of the situation. It is therefore, necessary that the Government should undertake this work so that the people of the State should not experience any difficulty in procuring food-grains. I know that the proposed outlay on the trading scheme adopted by the Government is the result of shortage of food. In olden days the Government's organisation used to be of smaller dimension and Police State used to prevail in the country, but with the march of time not only the volume of work but the functions of the Government have grown enormously. The Government have now assumed full responsibility in all spheres of work and there is nothing wrong in it. The amount of 2½ crores as provision for the trading scheme would create misunderstanding in the minds of the people. I concede that the Government is doing its duty in establishing this department but it has to be seen whether its working is satisfactory in the best interest of the general public. I must inform the hon. Minister incharge that this department is of great necessity and its need is quite justified but so far its working is considered I should say that it is far from satisfactory. If the Government is harbouring an impression that the work in this department is going on with despatch and efficiency, it is sadly mistaken. There is maladministration and I should say that corruption is also rampant. What I have said, I think, is not unparliamentary, as my hon. Friend the minister incharge might think it to be. I would, therefore, ask the Government to instil purity and efficiency in the administration of this department. The supplementary demand that has been put forward is likely to be passed by this House in view of their being no opposition and even if the opposition had been strong, it would not have liked to take up cudgels against the Government on this issue. But in the democratic system of Government every one of us is duty bound to acquaint the Government of all defects that exist in the Governmental organisation. I would, therefore, be failing in my duty if I do not complain of things that seem to me to be objectionable. This is not my private affair but with a view to taking part in the workings of democracy and in obedience to the impulse of doing my duty. I would bring to the notice of the Government the shortcomings that I have noticed in this department. The mere fact that there is no opposition in the legislature and that we have a single party State, does not mean that the Government should complacently ignore its shortcomings in the varied spheres of its administration. The Minister incharge should see that under the Food Procurement Scheme the method of distribution of wheat is satisfactory to the rationed areas and such other villages where wheat is not available. The method of distribution is very defective and requires considerable improvement. Moreover, many unfair means are adopted by the officers at the time of purchase of wheat. Several complaints, I understand, were made to the Government that the officers purchased wheat at a price much less than shown

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in the official records and the difference was distributed among themselves. This is the way in which systematic loot is being carried on by the officers in the Food Department. Such matters were brought to the notice of district authorities that Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors have been responsible for all this. Such mal-practices are not only confined to Rohtak district but other districts are also not free from it. I would draw the attention of hon. Minister to the complaint about Mandi Mudlana for paying less rates to zamindars than shown in papers and request that he should make enquiry and take suitable steps to prevent such irregularities in future. If the Government adopted usual method of writing to the Deputy Commissioner who would then address the District Food controller to look into the matter. Such procedure would serve no useful purpose and cause inordinate delay.

Minister For Development : I am prepared to go there myself if you help me to make enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Though I would welcome it but I do not want the Minister to undertake long tours because in that case he would not be able to attend to his work.

Minister For Development : Should I then entrust the task of making enquiry to you ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I would ask the hon. Minister to take necessary steps in the matter so that the arrangement should be satisfactory. I do not agree with Sardar Bachan Singh that Government is displaying "Karnias" mentality.

Sardar Bachan Singh : It appears that you have not made a thorough study.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can my Friend Sardar Bachan Singh show to me how this department is a source of profit to the Government ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Yes, I can tell.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I concede that the Government is not making any appreciable profit out of this Department but it should also take
[12 Noon] steps to remove all the evils which vitiate its utility. There is no gainsaying the fact that we suffer from shortage of food. According to some this shortage may be big and for others it may be small, however the fact remains that the Department is a necessity and cannot be done away with. I shall not agree with my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana if he pleads that all this work may be entrusted to the business community. We have tried these people and found them wanting.

I wish to invite the attention of the House to a very frequent complaint and of a very serious nature. I hardly remember an occasion when a Minister went on tour and people did not go to him with samples of food grains that were issued to them from the Godown. It is difficult to say as to who is responsible for this bad quality of grains. I think the hon. Minister concerned must also have been presented with these samples. During the last few days when the hon. Chief Minister went to my place people came up to him with samples immediately after he had finished his speech. In my opinion it should not be a pleasant experience for any Minister and Government should take steps to remove the very source of the complaint. It will be recalled that some time back wheat which was damaged in the godowns was distributed to the people and this act was a cause of a regular scandal.

Another great evil from which this Department suffers and which can be easily remedied is slackness on the part of the officers. I certainly do not impugn the honesty of the big officers. Their only fault in most cases is that they give a very long rope to their subordinates who vitiate their work. When the subordinates find that no strict control is being exercised over them, they steal large quantities of various commodities from the godowns. Sometime back a Sub-Inspector and a Chaprasi of the Department were caught red handed. The officers concerned should take all steps to crush this evil as it brings a bad name not only to the Department and the Government but even to that party which is responsible for the establishment of this Government.

My hon. Friends are aware that in order to enforce controls Government has also to restrict the movement of various commodities. Here again the officers namely the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Civil Supplies Department as also those belonging to the police who are required to keep a watch over movements try to make money through unfair means. I belong to a district which is on the border of Delhi as well as of Uttar Pradesh and I know that they harass the poor people beyond all measure to extort money out of them and share the loot of smugglers. Adequate supervision is not being kept over them and the pity is that a subordinate police officer who had made about two lakhs of rupees at Bahadargarh in this manner was given promotion. It is true that an Inspector and Sub-Inspector were removed from service but it was when they had done incalculable mischief with the public.

Here it will not be out of place to relate a scandalous incident that happened at Hissar. A businessman procured a permit from the Government to import some commodity into District Hissar by rail. He erased the word rail, and also by making some other alterations in the permit brought some commodity by road. He was arrested and tried but was somehow let off with some fine. Such a thing I believe can only be tolerated by what I call a 'lacher' (लचर) Government.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The word 'lacher' (लचर) is unparliamentary and I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, it is not unparliamentary. It is no abuse. It only means weak.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It is not open to the hon. Member to challenge the ruling of the Chair.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, it is far from me to challenge the ruling of the Chair. I was only explaining the word by way of a request. I wished to bring out that some Governments either overlook or gloss over the misdeeds of influential persons whereas some do not spare anybody however great. I am very sorry to say that I can not class our Government in the latter category. Is it not a pity that a man who is guilty of forgery and who has contravened our food laws has not been taken to task? I have no doubt that the matter must have been properly reported by the District Food Controller to the Police and still the Magistrate who was on the verge of termination of his services, perhaps to earn some honour had the audacity.....

Minister for Education : On a point of order, Sir. Can courts be discussed in this House ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I am surprised to find that the hon. Minister does not like the narration of evils in his own District Hissar.

Minister for Education : I am only raising a constitutional point.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It would be better if the hon. Minister raises some substantial points in place of only constitutional points. (*Sardar Bachan Singh :* In Hissar people cannot get even water to drink). Sir, I do not mean to suggest that this Department should be abolished. I am convinced that it is not possible to do without it. There is no doubt that if proper control is exercised by the Government over it, it can render very useful service. It is this want of supervision and control which is a source of bad name to the Government and the House is aware that it has been the subject of many interpellations. In the Unionist regime one of the Ministers told me that even if the Government were informed about an actual happening, they would not admit its correctness. When, however, our own Government came into being, I hoped that there would be at least fifteen or twenty out of a hundred occasions, when the hon. Minister would admit that certain things were improper and that he was sorry for them. I regret that it has not been the case. This Department should not indulge in malpractices. If I have pointed out an instance in which an officer belonging to the hon. Minister's district was involved, he should not consider it his duty to defend his conduct.

Minister for Development : Incorrect statements have to be contradicted.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I hope that the hon. Minister will prevent the recurrence of such happenings. If a person is caught in the act of committing breach of export-import regulations with regard to a commodity which is subject to procurement scheme, there should be no delay in taking action against him. I am not concerned with the district to which that officer belongs. If the Government prevents those things, it will inspire respect in the minds of the public. I belong to a district which is situated on the border of the State and if action is taken for the prevention of such breaches, it will have a salutary effect on the general public. Some of the inspectors appointed for this purpose fix shares with the traders and make money by helping them to export in violation of the Government orders. I brought some instances to the notice of the Food Controller of my district but no action was taken. In this connection I wish to tell the hon. Members about an incident in which a trader of Bhawani in district Hissar was involved. He wanted to export gram-husk to Delhi. There was no restriction on its export but an inspector stopped his truck and took him to the police station. The police officers too were of the same type and they jointly tried to extort money from him. The trader pointed out several times that he had not committed any breach of the law. Probably he had to spend some time in the police custody also, but I am glad that he did not agree to grease the palm of the inspector. I brought this case of illegal harassment to the notice of the Food Controller. The Department perhaps agreed that the act of the inspector was unjustified and illegal and some enquiry also might have been made. As such happenings take place very frequently I request the hon. Minister to make a note of the incident narrated by me and find out what action, if any, the Department took. If the Government takes action in such cases, it will inspire confidence in the public. Sometimes unintentional indifference on the part of officers encourages their subordinates to act as they please.

Some days back His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to Rohtak. The public thought that after attainment of independence the conditions had changed and the Governor's visit would provide them an opportunity of ventilating their grievances. The Governor stayed at Rohtak for several days but visited only one village. His visit to that village was arranged by a person whose son had been sentenced to imprisonment for one year by the Additional District Magistrate of Rohtak, on a charge of smuggling food grains to Delhi. This man was formerly a zaildar and belonged to that class of people, who used to give false evidence against Congress workers and did everything to please the foreign rulers. When people saw that such a person arranged the Governor's visit to that village, it had a very bad effect on them. I do not blame the Governor or the hon Minister for this because I know that our services are under the influence of persons of the class referred to by me. All the same, the Minister or I cannot evade complete responsibility. The public connect us, who are their representatives, with everything done by the Government. When people saw that even the Governor of the State stayed with and so patronised a person whose son was sentenced for indulging in black-market, and visited only that village how could we tell them that the procurement scheme was meant for their benefit? In the circumstances, it cannot succeed. I wished to draw the attention of the Government to these facts because I feel that the irregularities committed by the Government officials not only bring it to disrepute but hamper the very work which is intended to be done. Maximum effort should be made to eradicate these evils.

Another thing which I have noticed is this. In the Food Control offices, control on the establishments is very loose. During the last few days I brought two or three instances to the notice of the officer-in-charge in my district, in which the traders approached the Department and obtained permits for the supply of certain commodities in some villages, but these were never distributed there. Khetiwas and Machhrauli were two of such villages.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

The Inspectors of these Departments in collaboration with the office clerks manage to get permits issued in the names of bogus persons. As a result thereof, the food grains meant for distribution among the people actually do not reach them. Even the District Food Controller of Rohtak District is aware of this fact. He told us that permits had been issued but it was not known as to who actually made use of them. The hon. Minister should not think that these are the only instances of this type. Such cases are numerous. The trouble is that we get the opportunity of bringing them to the notice of the Government only once or twice in a year during the Sessions. If the hon. Minister were to make enquiries, he would find that the foodgrains meant for distribution by the Procurement Department, do not reach the people in a vast area of the Jhajjar Tehsil. These irregularities should be stopped at once. As my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh pointed out, the poor and the honest people suffer most in this system of rationing. Even in cases of violation of rules, the high-ups, even when they are caught, manage to escape, while the small fry get punished. As a matter of fact, Government lists of such offenders contain the names of the poor and not of those who wield some influence. In this connection, I would like to point out the case of a rich man of Rewari in Gurgaon District. The Inspectors of the Procurement Department, in collaboration with Police, raided the house of that man and took into possession huge quantities of food grains. This act of the

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Department had a healthy effect on the people. But cars were run to Simla and the highest authorities were approached. The result was that the matter was hushed up at the Ministerial level.

Minister for Development : Such a thing has never been done in my time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I am not concerned with Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa or Sardar Ujjal Singh. My complaint is against the Minister for Civil Supplies whether he is one man or another. What I want to say is that people cease to have much respect for law when they find that people who are apprehended by the Inspectors of the Department and the Police are not punished but are allowed to let go.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Was not the hon. Member himself a member of the Anti-Corruption Committee at that time ?

Chief Minister : I think it was wrong on the part of the hon. Minister to appoint him President of the Committee.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The Anti Corruption Committee had nothing to do with such cases. If I had any powers, such persons could not have escaped.

Shri Virendra : Is there any time-limit ?

Mr. Speaker : So far there has been no time limit, but in view of the fact that an hour and a half has been taken up by two hon. Members, time limit seems necessary. I would ask the hon. Member to finish his speech.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I shall finish my speech after mentioning this last point. I am glad that this Department decided to retrench some of its staff. The staff for the next year has been shown to be less in strength than the last year, although there is no reduction in expenditure. This retrenchment was done sometime back. What actually happened was that honest and efficient persons who had longer periods of service to their credit than others, were retrenched while those with less service, who had objectionable career were retained in service. This thing was brought to the notice of the Government and consequently one or two persons were reappointed. I know that an officer whose services are retained in Rohtak had accepted a bribe of Rs. 300/- from a person. Even the Deputy Commissioner of my District admitted that the official was of doubtful character. In spite of this fact, he was not retrenched.

Minister for Development : Is he still in service ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes, he is. Now, Sir, you can very well imagine the state of affairs when honest people are retrenched and the corrupt are retained in service. The Government in the beginning thought it proper to associate non-official persons also with the work of recruitment to this department. One or two meetings were also held in this connection at Rohtak. But after-wards the practice was discontinued. It was said that, due to interference with the work of administration, the work suffered. But I would like to point out that, if the officials are left entirely to themselves, they cannot help indulging in favouritism. The Government should therefore take strong measures to ensure honesty and integrity in the Departments which deal with things vital to the needs of the people, like food. In the end, I

hope that these defects and shortcomings will be removed and at the time of the next Budget the hon. Minister will have greater confidence in his Department, and the House in him.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur west, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the demand which is before the House for consideration has got no great bearing upon the expenditure that it might involve in the revenues of the state, because the Government is following the principle of "no loss, no profit". This department has much to do with the people at large and its purpose is to create a feeling of satisfaction in the minds of the people. The amount of satisfaction that it gives them is the standard by which we can measure its success. In this connection I wish to say that in the matter of controls much attention has been paid to technical matters and the real objects are relegated to the background. For instance, last year there was a demand that those persons who live in the cities and who have means of producing food grain in the rural areas should be allowed to take such food grain to the cities for their personal use. This demand was to some extent agreed to, and they were permitted to do so under certain conditions. We desire that they should be allowed to bring their produce from their districts for their personal consumption and this stock should be allowed to be used by them on their ration cards. By doing so we will be helping the poor persons who produce food grains because they will be in a position to save the amounts that they spend on their ration. Those persons who produce food grains on the agricultural lands of cities like Jullundur, should also be allowed to have their produce for their family use.

As regards procurement scheme, great difficulty is felt with regard to bringing the food grains to the markets. Of course, the desire of the present Government is to see that food grains should go to the markets situated at a distance of not more than two miles. My submission is that the consumers and producers should get the maximum of facilities and minimum of discomforts. It is my belief that at present controls should not be removed because when once an attempt was made by Mahatma Gandhi to appeal to the good sense of the shopkeepers it met with no successful results. On the other hand the shopkeepers did not stick to the assurances that they gave. At last we had again to revert to controls and I think for sometime to come we will have to keep the controls. But my opinion is that such methods should be employed by which consumers as well as the producers derive maximum benefits. At present, if it is possible, efforts should be made to remove as many discomforts as possible.

In the demand there is an item of standard cloth scheme. In this connection I wish to submit that there are numerous complaints about the prices of standard cloth. Poor people feel that the present prices are high. The market rates of standard cloth are such that poor persons cannot afford to buy it at those rates. It is high time that the Government of Punjab should approach the Central Government in this matter and put as much pressure upon it as possible so that the prices of standard cloth are brought down to enable poor persons to buy it. It is a matter of common observation that the present prices which are indicated on the standard cloth are such that they appear to be too much for the poor. Special attention should be paid to this matter because it is the poor who generally purchase standard cloth. So reduction in prices should be pressed for so that the prices of standard cloth may become reasonable and fall within the reach of poor sections of our society. The prices fixed by the mills are too high and there is dissatisfaction among the people, because the majority of the population consists of those who buy standard cloth.

[Sardar Swaran Singh.]

Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government of Punjab on having procured more food grains than the target fixed. This is an achievement on which the Government deserves congratulations. It is hoped that next year we will have no longer to depend upon imported wheat which has been the subject of severe criticism by the public at large. Our own wheat will be produced in such huge quantities that the people would get wheat of better quality for consumption. This is about the success of the procurement scheme. Now so far as the distribution of certain articles of necessity under the aegis of the Civil Supplies Department is concerned, I think there are a few articles which are still under its control. Sugar is one of the very important commodities under control and this has caused much resentment and unrest among the people on account of its non-availability.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order Sir. The hon. Member is irrelevant as sugar is not under discussion.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Pay of Civil Supplies Officer is included in this demand, and the House is perfectly competent to discuss this point when the pay of the Civil Supplies Officer is there.

Mr. Speaker : No doubt there are many items under this demand, but I understand that according to party decision, discussion is to be confined to Civil Supplies and Food Grains only.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, I will wind up the point. I was submitting that sugar was such an article of necessity as was equally in demand by the rich and poor or high and low. Now it becomes very difficult for us to make the common man understand as to why imported sugar in Pakistan is being made available to the people at cheaper rates in comparison with the sugar manufactured and sold in India. People naturally want to know why Indian sugar is costlier as compared with the imported sugar and under the present state of affairs it is really a tough job to pacify the public on this point. I am not an advocate of the policy of importing sugar from abroad with a view to bringing down the price of the indigenous sugar. What I want to suggest is that our own Government should impress upon the factory owners, whether in the Punjab or in Pepsu, the desirability of reducing their margin of profit in such proportion as to bring the price of the Indian sugar to compare favourably with the imported sugar. In fact there should be a respectable parity between the prices of the imported and the Indian sugar.

Sardar Bachan Singh : But the Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Tariff Board with regard to the import of foreign sugar.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I am not concerned with it as it is not the concern of the Punjab Government either. Besides, I have no mind to discuss the economic import policy of the Central Government at this moment. What I want to drive at is that the arrangement of distribution of sugar in the State should be reorganised. I am constrained to remark that the present arrangement for the distribution of sugar is extremely defective. This does not mean that I am not alive to the difficulties of the Government in this connection. I know that pressure is brought to bear upon the Government by the trading classes that they should be allowed to continue to be the sole distributors of sugar to the public. But I may point out that

the time has come when all such pressure should be resisted by the Government and the *status quo* regarding the distribution of this commodity be set aside. Government should lose no time in arriving at the decision that henceforth distribution of sugar will be carried out in rural areas through co-operative societies. (*Hear, hear*). They are proper bodies to be entrusted with this task. The need of taking over the work of distribution of sugar by the co-operative societies in the villages is all the more pressing particularly when we see that very often there is only one depot-holder catering to the needs of sugar of a group of villages lying scattered at a distance of five to seven miles from each other. It so happens that the villagers do not get their quota of sugar because nobody wishes to traverse a long distance for the sake of a small quantity of sugar. The result is that all that sugar finds its way to the black market and faked accounts are shown to the Civil Supplies Inspector by the depot holder. I, therefore, request that all the hue and cry of the trading classes in this connection be ignored and the distribution of sugar arranged through co-operative societies.

Then I have to make a few observations about some other important matters relating to the demand under discussion. First is the item of provision of improved seeds. Last year a large number of complaints were received in connection with the supply of seeds. People had purchased them at a higher price in the hope that they would be of an improved quality. But the money went in waste as the yield was poor and unsatisfactory. I would impress upon the Government to make adequate arrangements for the storage and procurement of improved seeds of wheat. The zamindar purchasing his requirements from the depot-holder should have full confidence in the good quality of the seeds supplied by the latter. This is possible only if the Government pays special attention to this matter. The zamindar should have full satisfaction that the seeds will yield a quality crop. I am sure Government will certainly stand to gain if it makes satisfactory arrangements for the supply of improved seeds to the zamindars. This will result in an increased production of food-grains.

Now I come to the staff employed in the Civil Supplies Department. I hope the Minister-in-charge of the department will be good enough to lend me his ears, to the suggestions that I am going to make in this regard. I am of the opinion that the crying need of the hour is that reorganisation and co-ordination should be brought about in the Civil Supplies Department. Now we find that there are several agencies for the execution of the same work or work of the same nature. The result is over-lapping of work and waste of public money. It would not be out of place to mention here my own experience, which I gained from my talks with different district officers. I enquired from the officer-in-charge of the Industries Department in my own district as to what were the arrangements for meeting the requirements of the zamindars with regard to certain controlled commodities like steel, agricultural implements and cement which he wanted for repairing wells etc., and whether there was any method by which the zamindar could procure the same without being put to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience. He told me that certain things could be procured from the Agriculture Department and others were distributed by the Industries Department, and yet others through the Co-operative Department. There was not one person who could be considered responsible for the supply of these things. Then I relate another instance. A very high officer of the district administration told me that the number of inspectors for different purposes in the Civil Supplies Department was so large that he did not know the exact nature of the duties assigned to them. He related to me an interesting incident

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which I want the House to know. A young man, quite fresh from the College, was employed as an inspector in the Civil Supplies Department and posted at Hissar. As you are aware, Sir, it is a sandy tract and camel is the chief means of conveyance in Hissar district. Once that young inspector had to go on tour on camel's back. The young man was not accustomed to this sort of conveyance. He had to cover 20 miles and during the journey he developed "laga" injury to such an extent that he had to be removed to the hospital. But nothing was known why and on what Government business he performed that journey. So what I want to drive at is that instead of employing different inspectors for different controlled commodities, there should be some unified and co-ordinated scheme by which one inspector could perform all the duties without loss of efficiency.

Mr. Speaker : I know of 17 inspectors in a district headquarters for different controlled commodities. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Swaran Singh : So far as my information goes, the number was no less than 31. (*Renewed laughter*). I therefore submit that the Civil Supplies Department should be reorganised in such a manner that plural agencies for the execution of one type of work are eliminated. I feel that the energy of the Government is frittered away by the appointment of too many inspectors for doing work of the same nature. I realise the difficulty of the Government because they are compelled to sanction too much staff at the insistence of the heads of departments who would naturally like to have more staff if the work is to be finished before time. He asks for four people if he stands in need of two. In this connection I welcome the decision of the hon. Chief Minister to appoint a Resources and Retrenchment Committee. I would request him to ask the Ministers in charge of the Departments of Civil Supplies, Industries and Co-operative Societies to prepare such a co-ordination plan that duplication of work is eliminated. Thus not only a considerable economy in expenditure would be effected but also people at large would be in a position to know where a certain controlled commodity could be made available.

I am of the opinion that control over foodgrains should continue as before. The main idea underlying the policy of control is to make available all the essential commodities to people at fixed rates. In fact there are no two opinions about it that control over food grains is in the interests of the general public. There should generally be a healthy reaction on the part of the people so far as the day-to-day working in connection with the control over essential commodities is concerned, and if it is not so, then it is crystal clear that some defects exist in the working of this scheme. Therefore efforts would have to be made to find out the defects and remove them with a view to satisfying the general public. I am not speaking like my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana who is in favour of removing the controls over the essential commodities. Perhaps he wants that the beoparies should again have a free hand in making enormous profits as they like. However, I would like to request the Government to enforce the control in such a way that the beoparies may not get any opportunity to make any grievance and the people may also realize that adequate arrangements exist to make all the essential commodities available to them at reasonable rates. If this department is reorganized and improved upon, I am sure, it will prove more useful and as a result thereof people will also get more and more satisfaction. I wish to bring this point to the notice of the Government that the number of complaints regarding corruption in the Civil Supplies Department is not so much as it was before. At the same time it cannot be said that there is no corruption in this

department. Perhaps some other department has come to the forefront to eclipse this department. My hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh has perhaps understood which department I am pointing at. There is no doubt about it that corruption is found in the temporary departments to some extent. The main reason why it is found necessary to continue controls and also eradicate corruption is that there is a great difference between the normal prices and the blackmarket prices as a result of which people are put to much hardships. Under the circumstances we should not decide whether or not controls should continue. We should instead enforce controls in such a way that the staff may be forced to work in the interests of the general public, for whom these are meant, with a view to giving them entire satisfaction.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir. In your absence an hon. Member said in respect of another hon. Member that it was a case of 'Devil quoting scriptures.' I ask whether it would be a good practice to use such words in the House?

An hon. Member : He only said it in a whisper.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Well I don't want that such words should be used even in a whisper.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, I withdraw the word 'devil,' and say—quoting scriptures.

Shri Virendra (Ex—Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing West Multan Division General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the Civil Supplies Department is considered to be a very important department and it will not be incorrect to say that this department is in a way the very back-bone of the Government. It is said that if at any time any defect is found in the machinery of law and order and if it is not set right in time, then confusion and chaos would be the order of the day. But in my opinion if under the present conditions the Civil Supplies Department fails to discharge its functions then there would be the worst type of chaos and confusion. The reasons for this are not far to seek. If food, cloth and other essential commodities are not made available to people in time, the conditions thus created would have very bad repercussions. In fact the results would be dangerous and detrimental. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper on our part to take such steps which may be instrumental in removing distrust in the minds of the people so that they may not get an opportunity to complain against the Government so far as this department is concerned. It was said that among all the departments this department was known for the worst type of corruption. But I am of the opinion that at present we do not find so much corruption prevalent in this department as it was in the past. The position at present is this that more than half of the corruption resorted to by this department has already been eradicated and I take this opportunity of congratulating the Government on the achievement. There is no doubt about it that the District officers are not yet free from this disease of corruption. So far as the officers at the top of this department are concerned, there is hardly any officer against whom any complaint has been made. I think this is all due to the efforts of the hon. Minister-in-charge to whom our thanks are due. As I have already stated, this department is a very important one and in view of its importance, directly connected as it is with the public, it is but meet and proper on our part to devise ways and means to remove all the defects so that people may not get any chance to make any complaints against it. We would also make it a

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point to see how best these defects can be removed in the interests of the State.

It is complained that subordinate officers resort to corruption at the time of issuing permits. In this connection I would like to point out that so far as the corruption resorted to by the subordinate officers is concerned, sometimes the officers at the top have some hand in it and it will not be incorrect to say, if I am permitted to do so, that at times even the Government has also some hand in it. I would like to cite a few cases for which of course the present Ministry can no longer be held responsible. Sometimes it so happens that officers are made to commit certain irregularities by some interested parties out of political considerations. In this connection I would like to quote an instance. My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has in the course of his speech maintained how officers in his own district had not taken any action against rich and influential persons. Sometimes they are helpless as undue pressure is brought to bear upon them to do irregular things which perhaps under normal conditions they would not have done. Sometime back the Civil Supplies Officer of Rohtak was transferred to Kangra district against his wishes simply because he had got a friend of an hon. Member arrested for violating the law by indulging in black-marketing. Instead of giving any credit to him for his work, he was transferred to a place where he did not like to go simply because he had arrested a very influential person. Similarly in a very important and interesting case a big cloth merchant of Simla was arrested mainly on political considerations. He was subjected to great indignities. He was handcuffed and made to parade in the streets. He was challaned and produced in the court, where he was discharged because Government failed to make out a case against him. In this connection I may point out that the remarks which the learned Judge made in the course of his judgement regarding the action of the Government in arresting that merchant are such as do not redound to the credit of any Government. Under the circumstances it is but meet and proper that

whereas severe punishment is suggested for the corrupt officials, 1 A M. honest and diligent officers should be encouraged. Sir, I really feel that honesty and incorruptibility are needed in this department more than in any other department, because it enters into transactions of crores of rupees on behalf of the Government. This is the department which arranges for the supply of necessities of life to the people. So it is essential that the staff of this department is encouraged to work honestly and remain above temptations. Slackness should not be allowed to enter into this department, because on its efficient working depend the lives of the people. I have to say that slackness is nevertheless there to some extent and it should be the foremost duty of the Government to remove it. As I have already stated, corruption has no doubt decreased but if what remains of it is also eradicated, it will become an ideal department and it will become a source of great strength to the Government, for on this department depend the comforts of the public.

Now, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the expenditure that is being incurred or that is proposed to be incurred in connection with this department. It was stated by the hon. Finance Minister that the Budget had been prepared on the basis of 'minimum expenditure on every department consistent with efficiency'. It was also stated that every possible economy had been effected. Now what do we find in the Budget estimates for this department? In the year 1949---50, a provision of Rs. 1,07,33,100 was made for this department. In the Budget estimates for the next year, this has been increased to Rs. 2,59,53,800. I feel, Sir, that this big increase is not at

all justified. Instead of reducing expenditure, it has been unnecessarily increased. To make my point clear, I would just read out the salaries that are being given to the officers of this department. A sum of Rs. 16,200. has been provided as the salary of the Director-General of Civil Supplies and another sum of Rs. 3,000 has been earmarked as his special pay. There is provision for a Director, whose annual salary comes to Rs. 13,200 and special pay amounts to Rs. 3,000/-. Then there is a Deputy Director, for whom also a provision of special pay amounting to Rs. 2,400 has been made in addition to his regular pay estimated at Rs. 7,200. In this way, many officers have been given this benefit of special pay. If only the total expenditure on this account were to be estimated, it would run into several thousands. So I feel, Sir, that there is much scope for effecting a reduction in expenditure, so far as this department is concerned, provided an earnest effort is made in this direction. We are told that efforts have been made to effect retrenchment in this department, but we also know that the strength of the staff remains the same. What this retrenchment was about, one fails to understand. Sir, it is essential that the expenditure proposed on this department be subjected to a careful review and reduction made wherever possible. Already the impression prevails that this department is being lavishly financed, resulting in wastage of money. Even though this impression may prove to be unfounded, a real effort to scrutinize the working of this department is urgently called for.

Now I heartily endorse what my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has said with regard to the question of permitting the people living in towns to bring for their consumption foodgrains produced on their own land. There is no reason why people who own agricultural land should not be allowed the use of the foodgrains produced by them, while they live in rationed areas. I would request the hon. Minister concerned to give this matter his immediate consideration. People owning land within municipal limits have already the permission to consume food produced on their own lands and it is but proper that others too who own land outside the municipal limits should be permitted to do so.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That point has been referred to already.

Mr. Virendra : I do not want to take any more time of the House, Sir. In the end I would again request the Government to take effective steps to root out whatever little corruption still prevails in this department. By doing so, the Government will be doing a great service to the people, since this is the department with which the public has to deal from day to day.

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, after all I have 'caught your eye'; so I must thank you for giving me a chance. If back-benchers like ourselves

Mr. Speaker : No more of that, please.

Thakur Dalip Singh : All right, Sir. Leaving aside general things such as corruption about which other Friends have already said enough, I would just confine myself to the working of the Civil Supplies Department, so far as my district is concerned. I had mentioned some of the complaints of the people of my district, in a letter addressed to the hon. Minister. A reply to this letter was received by me only recently. Still there are some matters to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. Sir, in the reply that I have received from the department, it has been admitted that owing to the peculiar conditions of Kangra district such as the absence of

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adequate means of communication, the vastness of its area etc., the service of the department in this district has not been satisfactory and free from defects and drawbacks. I would urge the Government to take immediate steps to remove them as early as possible.

So far as the strength of the staff of this department is concerned, it is no doubt true that it is excessive. While the number of officers, clerks, inspectors and sub-inspectors has gone on increasing, efficiency has been on the wane. Formerly the number of Civil Supplies officers and inspectors used to be less and the service was better. Now it is the other way about. The state of affairs has now worsened in every way.

Minister For Development : But lakhs of rupees were made 'then', not 'now.'

Thakur Dalip Singh : The hon. Minister will know the difference between 'then' and 'now,' only if he tries to compare things. Corruption has not decreased. On the other hand it has increased, just because the number of officers has increased, and everybody is anxious to have his share of the 'booty.'

Now, Sir, I will take separately each of the functions performed by this department. So far as the Foodgrains Department is concerned, it is an old complaint of the people of Kangra that supplies of foodgrains are neither sufficient nor timely. Our district produces foodgrains which can hardly meet its needs for two months. For 10 months in a year, people of this district depend on food brought from outside. For several years, our complaint has been that supplies are not made in time. Even long after they are allocated they do not reach the dealers. Some months back, the District Civil Supplies officers gave permits to dealers to import maize. The money was deposited by them in advance, but so far no arrangement has been made to bring it and the people are suffering hardships. Now I give another instance. A large quota of foodgrains was allocated for Tehsils Kulu and Nurpur areas where famine conditions are prevailing throughout the year, but it continued to lie at Simla and Narkanda and did not reach the people who were in sore need of it. The reason that was given was that owing to the snowfalls, it could not be carried to those places. Now, Sir, is it not the duty of the department to foresee such eventualities and send sufficient supplies in time, so that people may not have to face starvation? Is it not its duty to see that sufficient supplies reach all places before any of them are cut off owing to rains or snowfalls? Sir, the people of my district had to face great hardships as a result of this negligence of this department. It was stated that the foodgrains could not reach the destination as the road traffic was closed. The officers of the department should, therefore, see that food is made available in time. In such areas where snow or rain is likely to impede the supply of food, the Government should make necessary arrangements well in advance so that delay in supply of food may not cause hardship to the residents. In the Provincial Food Reserve in Simla where thousands of maunds of foodgrain have been stored, shortage was discovered and after making enquiries nobody has been able to detect how much shortage has occurred and who is responsible for it. At Dharamsala sugar remained lying for a long time in the office of out-agency and The Civil Supplies Department had to pay a demurrage for not taking delivery of it in

time. This is the way in which the work of the Government is being carried on with despatch and efficiency. Another instance of the inefficiency of the Civil Supplies Department can be seen in the fact that there is acute scarcity of kerosene oil in various villages of Kangra district though the Government take to itself the credit of supplying kerosene oil in every part of the districts. The people had to go without it for the last two months and their difficulty can be more imagined than described. Since the Government has reduced the commission from two pice to one pice, the wholesale dealers have now begun to take little interest to sell kerosene oil. Moreover, the Government has no control over these wholesale dealers who are often found careless in supplying kerosene oil to the depot-holders. Besides this, ration cards have not been prepared for a long time past as the sub-inspectors do not take the trouble of visiting villages as they do not get T. A. from the Government. The Government should allow travelling allowance to these sub-inspectors so that they may begin to take interest in the work entrusted to them. I fail to understand the idea of employing this staff when the work of rationing is not being carried on in right earnest. Moreover, it is surprising to find that Government has fixed different quotas of sugar for urban and rural class of people. Whereas the maximum quantity of sugar admissible per head is 12 chhatanks for the people living in urban areas, it is seven chhatanks per head in case of rural population. I really fail to understand why this invidious distinction exists between urbanites and ruralites. But whenever such matters are brought to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister he puts off the matter saying that no such controversy should be raised. In fact Government is responsible for bringing such issues to the forefront. Moreover on special occasions such as marriage, death or birth, special quota of sugar is allowed, but unfortunately people living in villages of my district do not enjoy this facility as well. They are unable to get such permits from the sub-inspectors of rationing as the office is located at headquarters which is at a distance of 20 or 30 miles from their villages. Before the introduction of rationing system, there used to be Civil Supplies Committee in every village which used to issue such permits. By this system the villagers could get the supply of sugar without any difficulty. I would, therefore, suggest that the same system should again be revived so that the rural population may be saved from the discomfort of walking to long distances on foot. There is no electric flour mill in the Kangra district and "kharases" are used for grinding wheat. On account of the imposition of milling control order, these illiterate people are faced with great difficulty to maintain regular accounts and for this reason they have been forced to close their Kharases. Sometime back the flour mill by chance went out of order and the people had to experience great difficulty in getting flour. When the hon. Chief Minister went on tour to Dharamsala, the people met him in deputation and requested him to cancel the order and he promised to remove their difficulty but the order had not been cancelled up to the 6th of this month in spite of the Chief Minister's assurance. Such a restriction should not be imposed there. Moreover, the people of Kangra district and particularly of Dharamsala are habitual rice eaters and the quality of rice that is produced in that district is superfine. These people cannot take rice which is available under the rationing system. They generally take "Sela Basmati". Previously Dharamsala was exempt and there was no control on rice. The people used to get rice of good quality from outside. The rationing system should, therefore, be withdrawn from Dharamsala as people are facing great difficulty under this system. It would be better if "fair price" shops are opened there so that people may get all commodities at cheap prices. Apart from this it should not be made compulsory for the people to take inferior quality of rice which is available at the rationing depots. If it is not done, it will be tantamount to encouraging

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black-marketing of fine type of rice. Large quantity of rice is grown in my area particularly in the three tahsils of Kangra, Nurpur and Palampur. At present the whole quantity of rice is going into black-market. I would suggest that the Government should give zamindars a fair price for the commodity so that they may not have recourse to this bad habit of black-marketing.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member west Punjab Assembly representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, as there is a very limited time at my disposal. I cannot go into the details of the manner in which controls are being worked in this State. I shall only place a few points before the House. I shall give a few suggestions also which in my opinion will go a long way in remedying the defects which have been pointed out by my hon. Friends Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and Sardar Swaran Singh. To my mind we can get rid of many of the drawbacks of the system of controls as put through in the State through different notifications and rules and regulations if we set up a provincial Advisory Committee like the one we had in the united Punjab, of which Sardar Swaran Singh and Sardar Baldev Singh have been members. This committee did wonderful work in the united Punjab and there is no reason why it should not prove useful for our State. When this committee is a representative of the Government, trade and the consumers, it will evolve a policy which is calculated to bring about prosperity for everybody. So far as the traders are concerned I can assure the House that in such an event they will do everything in their power to co-operate.

The second point which I wish to place before the hon. Members is the fact that we have been unnecessarily feeding the fire of controls and there is no knowing where we are heading to. The House while recalling the history of controls will remember that originally the controls were imposed as a war time emergency. By and by they went on developing into various shapes and forms. *e.g.* price control, distribution control, rationing control, movement control and so many other controls. At present we find that our state trading scheme has assumed such vast proportions that it is not possible to carry it on without adequate storage equipment, so much so that our Prime Minister felt the necessity of asking for stocks from the United States of America. The Hindustani phrase aptly applies to the situation we are in :

ਸਰਜ਼ ਵਫ਼ਤਾ ਗਏ ਜੂ ਜੂ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ ।

ਮਰਜ਼ ਬੜ੍ਹਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਜੂੰ ਜੂੰ ਦਵਾ ਕੀ ।

My hon Friend Sardar Swaran Singh pointed out that some vested interests had been created in this Department by the administration itself. Here I should not be misunderstood. I shall only lay facts before the House without any comment as to whether the continuance of controls is necessary or not. Firstly I say that the officers and servants of this Department who are not permanent employees of the Government in these Departments do not "favour" the idea of liquidating controls. Secondly there is a class of new traders which is not only benefitting through the black market but is in a position to manage permits and has the advantage of sufficient margin in the controlled and fair prices of articles. Thirdly there is a category among the consumers which is in a position to purchase some quantities of controlled commodities *e.g.*, foodgrains, sugar etc. through permits and sell them at profitable rates in the bazar. So I may say that there are three varieties of people who have created vested interests in this Department for themselves.

As the time given to me is very short I should not fail to mention a very important point. I dare say that it is always the poor man whether he is a consumer or a trader who is penalised for insignificant contraventions whereas the influential people can do anything with impunity. To illustrate this point, I wish to read a judgment :

" The accused have been challaned under Section 7 of the E. S. T. P. Act for having sold *besan* at Rs. /6/- per seer, while the controlled price was Rs. -/5/6 and some fraction of a pice. The besan sold is half a seer for Rs. -/3/- and according to the controlled price the price comes to Re. -/2/9 $\frac{1}{2}$. Two accused have stated that they never sold anything and that they have been involved unnecessarily and they have nothing to do with the shop. The other 2 accused admit having sold the basin for Rs. -/3/- but their contention is that as there could not be a fraction of a pice so they charged Rs. -/3/-. Thus it is clear from all this that the basan was sold for Re. -/3/. at which it should not have been sold since the controlled price was less than this. My attention has been drawn by the counsel for the accused to an order No. 2022 R- C. D. /13-8-46, according to which the retailer was allowed to charge a pice whenever a fraction of a pice becomes due for any quantity of sugar sold. The same is allowed with regard to wheat or wheat atta by an order No. 406-R. C. D. /B/1-11 dated 26-2-46. The same thing is repeated in an other order of the Rationing Controller dated 8-2-47 No. 281-R. C. It is clear from this that whenever a fraction of a pice is to be charged the retailer is entitled to charge the whole pice in the case of sugar, wheat and wheat atta. Sugar and wheat are rationed and their prices controlled; besan is not rationed but its pice controlled. When a pice can be charged for a fraction of a pice under this order of the Rationing Controller in the cases of commodities which are rationed and price controlled, certainly a pice can be charged for a fraction of a pice in the case of an article which is not rationed though the price is controlled. As a matter of fact the accused should not have been challaned in the present case. I do not find the accused guilty of the offence and I accordingly discharge them and the police case is cancelled. "

Another thing which I wish to place before the Government is the necessity of giving wider publicity to the regulations made by it. The rules which the Government makes are published in the Government Gazette, just as is done in the case of Bills. The Government should not merely rely on the principle that 'ignorance of law is no excuse'. In order that an order or rule may be followed by the public it is necessary to give it the widest publicity. Mere publication in the Gazette is not enough. Now-a-days it so happens that certain rules are published in the Gazette on one day and some people are challaned for infringing those on the second or third day after that. In this connection, I am aware of an instance when a notification was published in the Gazette of the 3rd of this month. The Secretary of the Trade Association concerned received a letter about the issue of that notification on the 14th while some people were challaned on its basis on or about the 7th. I wish to point out to the Government the inadequacy of publicity given by it. In order to ensure effective enforcement of an order, it is necessary to give it sufficient publicity.

Then, Sir, we have noticed the rise in price of sugar. The Tariff Board has made certain suggestions with regard to this matter. Nobody can deny the necessity of encouraging 'grow more food' campaign. It is essential to produce as large a quantity of cereals as possible but we should at the same time not ignore the production of money crops like cotton and sugar-cane. In

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

order to improve the economic condition of the State, we should pay proper attention to the growth of these also. If the production of a certain commodity is low, its supply will be short and it will become essential to control it. If the very cause of shortage of supply is removed, it will not be necessary to impose controls. For these reasons, it is essential that proper attention should be paid to the production of money-crops like sugar-cane to remove the shortage of sugar. I will draw the attention of the House to the subject of 'trade channels' on some other occasion as I have no more time at my disposal to-day.

Minister for Development : (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for the constructive suggestions made by them and for pointing out shortcomings in the department and the difficulties of the public with regard to it. It has been said, Sir, that there is corruption in this department. I do not say that it does not exist there at all but one thing about, which I wish to assure the hon. Members is this that there has never been such a thing as interference on Ministerial level, as stated by some of them. I can also assure them that such a thing will never happen.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is the Minister giving assurance for the period for which he is in charge of it ?

Minister for Development I can give assurance for that period only. Not only that, if any Member proves that there has been any interference on my part, I shall be prepared to tender my resignation without waiting for a formal motion. If somebody has any doubts even after this assurance, I can only feel sorry for it.

Nobody can say that controls are good but these have to be imposed when there is shortage of certain things. Controls have been imposed with respect to those commodities only of which there is shortage in the market. It becomes difficult to procure a thing whose supply is short and its distribution too involves many difficulties. Everybody who is connected with the work of procurement and distribution is not an angel nor can his antecedents be verified. Some of them may have certain shortcomings and even weakness and may favour certain persons. In that case it is too much to say that these things happen with the knowledge of the higher authorities. So far as officers of this department are concerned I am confident that they do no such things and I feel proud of them. Most of my hon. Friends spoke about food only. In this connection, Sir, I wish to submit that something is said on account of misunderstanding or want of information. It is an admitted fact that with the loss of fertile lands there is shortage of food in the country. After partition, the production in this State is low as our lands are not so productive as those which we have lost. At first the controls were removed, but then the prices rose so high that poor people found it very difficult to buy food. Control had therefore to be re-imposed in 1948. In twenty large towns complete rationing has been introduced and in another seven controlled distribution has been enforced. In deficit districts, the Deputy Commissioners have been asked to arrange for the distribution of food-grains. As we had not sufficient quantity of food grains in the State to meet our requirements, we arranged for import of food grains from outside through the Government of India. To meet a part of our requirements from within the State, we introduced the procurement scheme. In the beginning, this scheme was introduced in regard to rice only. But afterwards it was

extended to wheat, barley and other food grains also. As a result of this scheme, the village people got price for their surplus commodities while the Government's requirements were also met to some extent. In 1948, the Government procured 15,662 tons of rice as compared with the original target of 12,000 tons. In 1949—50, we fixed our target at 55,000 tons and we actually purchased 85,000 tons of paddy which, we hope, would yield 50,000 tons of rice. As regards wheat, our target was 1,61,500 tons; but we have so far procured 2,17,000 tons and it is hoped that by the end of the year we would have procured 2,20,000 tons. In regard to barley, our target was 32,000 tons, but we have actually procured only 17,631 tons. It is because the crop of barley has not been quite good in the State. In 1948—49 we imported 96,210 tons of wheat; but in 1949—50 we have imported about 69,000 tons only.

Some of my hon. Friends have complained of bad quality of rationed flour. It was due to the fact that the wheat we imported from outside was not so good. So necessarily we had to mix it with our indigenous produce. But I may inform the hon. Members that this mixing of wheat has now been stopped. This time the Government of India has refused to give us any wheat out of the imported quota. On the other hand, they have asked us to supply them 30,000 tons of foodgrains besides gram, out of our own produce. Under these circumstances we shall have to intensify our procurement campaign during the next year. If we succeed in achieving our target in procurement, we shall not only supply better stuff to our own people, but we shall also be able to spare some quantity to other States and the Government of India. Before the last rainfall, we became apprehensive about the prospects of crops in our State. We, therefore, wrote to the Government of India that we might have to ask for imported food grains. But since then, there has been good rainfall and our hopes have been revived. Given the support and co-operation of hon. Members of this House, we shall succeed in our procurement programme. In order to see this scheme through, the Government had to control distribution and impose restrictions on the movement of food grains. Naturally people were put to some inconvenience. But we had to do it keeping in view the paramount needs of the country. As a matter of fact, the Government of India urged upon us to impose a sort of levy on everybody. But we did not agree to that. Now the PEPSU Government is also following the same scheme as is being followed over here. It is hoped that other States would also follow suit.

For want of time, I do not want to go into the question of rationing in different towns. I would, however, like to point out that people have cooperated with us in a difficult time when we issued gram flour to them along with wheat flour. But now I assure them that they would get better food in the course of next year, because we have better prospect of crops.

Some of the hon. Members have complained about the bad quality of seed grains. I admit that we had not good seed grains. But still we supply the best that could be procured from the market. For the future, however, we have decided to procure good quality seed grains from our agricultural farms and there will be no complaint in this regard.

Some Friends have also pointed out that prices of food-grains should not be allowed to fall so much as to cause loss to the producer.

[Minister for Development]

Sir, I wish to assure the hon. Members that Punjab Government has taken a keen interest in this matter. The Government of India is of the view that the prices should be reduced. But in the interest of the grower we are pleading strongly with the central Government not to lower the rates of wheat. (*Hear, hear*). It is possible that the central Government might not accede to our demand in the interests of the consumers. But we will try to put our argument before them.

Some of the hon. Members have raised an objection with regard to the price of seeds that the Government charged from the farmers. Sardar Sajjan Singh has complained that the Government charged Rs. 21/- per maund for seed from growers having itself purchased it at Rs. 14/- per maund. I admit that the seed was supplied at a higher price. But the reason for doing so was that there was a fear that the people might take to eating wheat that was being supplied for the purpose of seed. So in order to prevent people from using it that way a higher price was charged.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Why does the Government not return the excess price that has been charged by it ?

Minister for Development : I was going to tell something about that also. The Government has given seed at a reduced price for the *Kharif* crop. So the profit made earlier has been returned to the growers. Government kept nothing out of it.

Another objection raised by some of the hon. Members is with regard to the pays and salaries of the officers of this department. In this connection I wish to state that this is a temporary department. If higher salaries are not given to its officers they might indulge in corruption. So keeping this fact in view the salaries are kept at a reasonably high standard, so that the temptation might be reduced. I am glad to note that this policy has been successful and corruption is on the decrease. Moreover in order to encourage them to continue work in this temporary department they had to be paid a little higher salary.

As regards rice milling, I fully realise that there are some hardships involved in this matter. The Government is trying to improve the state of affairs as far as it can.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The poor *chakiwalas* are put to a lot of difficulties.

Minister for Development : Yes, I realise that. The grievances of the *chakiwalas* are being examined and steps will be taken to redress them. I am aware of the fact that the rice growers are also bearing hardships. But the difficulty is that we are unable to create more staff for the purpose. However, we will consider the problem in all its aspects and we will try to see what we can do in this matter.

As regards godowns it has been stated in some quarters that there has been a great loss of foodgrains in the absence of proper storage facilities etc. I regret to admit that there has been some loss at Ambala. Although we have sold some of the foodgrains, we cannot deny that there has been some loss in this matter. So in view of this experience we are trying to make proper storage arrangements by spending a sum of rupees four thousand. We are trying to have rat-proof and cemented godowns. We wish to spend much on the improvement of storage conditions and we hope that

very soon we will achieve the objectives. As regards distribution of controlled commodities steps would be taken to do so through co-operative societies to the largest possible extent.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Why only to the largest extent and not completely ?

Minister for Development : We can act according to the resolution of the House and not beyond it. We are trying to put it into practice as far as we can. It has been suggested that we should act according to the desires of hon. Members.. I assure them that even before this suggestion, we have been trying to act accordingly and we will continue doing so. I thank the hon. Members for their suggestions and kind words, and I assure them through you, Sir, that we will do our best to remove the complaints and take action on them.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2, 59, 53, 800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of 85-A-Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2.p.m. on Monday, 20th March 1950.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

20th March 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 20th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber Simla, at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS.

* 1549. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to wind up the National Volunteer Corps ; if so, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Government have not decided to wind up the Punjab Volunteer Corps, but only to reorganise it. The reorganisation scheme is under preparation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number and the expenditure that have been reduced in the matter of National Volunteer Corps ?

Chief Minister : The reduction of expenditure is about half and instead of the regular cadre a scheme of reorganisation is under preparation.

Shri Virendra : When will this reorganisation take place ?

Chief Minister : Very soon.

Shri Virendra : Will any effort be made to accommodate the present officers ?

Chief Minister : Of course, some of the officers already employed may be absorbed when the N.V.C. is reorganised.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that a sum of Rupees twenty five lakhs has been saved which, in fact, was to be spent on the N.V.C ?

Chief Minister : Yes, the money has been saved as a result of reorganisation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the object for which the N.V.C. was organised has been realized.

Chief Minister : So far we have achieved what we desired. That is why we have taken up the question of reorganising it.

REORGANISATION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

* 1551. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) . whether the Government intends to implement the recommendations of the Committee appointed for the reorganisation of the Public Relations Department ;

[Shri Virendra]

(b) which of those recommendations have been implemented so far?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendations have been under Government's consideration and are likely to be implemented within the next three months.

Shri Virendra : The report of the committee appointed for the purpose of reorganising the Public Relations Department was submitted about eight or nine months back. May I know the reason why three more months will be required for the implementation of the recommendations?

Chief Minister : For implementing the recommendations the appointment of the Director is necessary. The papers are with the Public Service Commission for this purpose.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

* 1554. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the date when the Resources and Retrenchment Committee was formed ;
- (b) the names of the members of this Committee ;
- (c) the total number of sittings held by this Committee so far ;
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this Committee ;
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted its report, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The Committee was appointed on 5th July, 1948.

(b) 1. The hon. Finance Minister (Chairman).

- 2. Shri Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A.
- 3. S. Ujjal Singh, M.L.A.
- 4. Shrimati Sita Devi, M.L.A.
- 5. Shri Ganga Saran, M.L.A.
- 6. Shri Bihari Lal Channa, M.L.A.
- 7. S. Jagjit Singh Mann, M.L.A.
- 8. Seth Sudharshan, M.L.A.
- 9. Dr. L C Jain, M.A., Ph. D., D. Sc. (London).
- 10. Finance Secretary to Government, Punjab.

(c) Six Sittings were held which lasted for a total period of .. working days

(d) The total expenditure incurred by Government on the Committee upto the 31st January 1950 is Rs. 52,075/-.

(e) The Committee has not yet submitted its report. A draft report is ready, but owing to the heavy pre-occupations of the Finance Secretary, it has not been possible to finalise this

report. It is expected that the final draft report will be in the hands of the members of the Committee during this month. A meeting of the Committee has been called for to meet on the 24th March, 1950.

TUNNEL AT BHAKRA.

* 1563. **Shri Rattan Singh Taiib** ; Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a portion of one of the diversion tunnels at Bhakra collapsed recently, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the side of the tunnel (right or left) that collapsed ;
- (c) the loss of life, if any, involved together with the loss of money the Government have to bear in this respect ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : A copy of Press Communiqué issued by Government which gives all the information on the subject is laid on the table of the House.*

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGE MAKHI KALAN.

* 1578. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any punitive police post has been stationed at village Makhi Kalan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ; if so since when ;
- (b) the sanctioned strength of the police force for the post ;
- (c) the actual strength of the police force since the date of its location upto 31. 1. 50 ;
- (d) the number of cases from the village registered at the Bhikhiwind Police Station since the location of the punitive police post upto 31. 1. 50 ;
- (e) the number of the cases registered against the inhabitants of the aforesaid village at other police stations since the location of the punitive police post upto 31. 1. 50 ;
- (f) the number of the cases investigated by the officer incharge of this punitive police post in which the inhabitants of this village were involved between the aforesaid period ;
- (g) the number of cases investigated by him in which the inhabitants of this village were not involved during the aforesaid period ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes. Since 1. 12. 1949.

- (b) 1 A.S.I. and 5 Foot Constables (including 1 F.C. for Contingency Reserve).
- (c) As at (b) above.
- (d) to (g) Nil.

*Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the amount that has been realised from the village for maintaining the punitive post ?

Chief Minister : For this notice is required.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that other work is also taken from the Police force stationed at this Punitive Post in connection with the maintenance of law and order ?

Chief Minister : I can tell this provided due notice is given.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : As no case has been registered in the said Punitive Post since 1st December, is the Government prepared to consider the question of withdrawing it ?

Chief Minister : Police posts are generally posted for a certain period. So how can it be withdrawn before that ?

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, JHAJJAR.

***1379. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Municipal Committee, Jhajjar had credited Rs. 2399/- on 2-2-49 on account of fee for the preliminary survey work and test boaring scheme to the P. W. D., Health Circle, Rohtak ;
- (b) whether the Superintending Engineer of the Circle has decided to delete the item of boaring, while collecting date for the water supply scheme ; if so, why ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes. The fee was credited for preliminary survey work but not for test boaring scheme.

- (b) Yes ; because a large number of boarings previously put down in the Rohtak and Hissar Districts by the Agriculture Engineer had yielded brackish water which is not entirely fit for drinking purposes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Municipal Committee requested the Government to sanction the expenditure on boring but the Government refused to do so ? What was the reason for this ?

Chief Minister : The question has already been replied to.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do the Government not realise that there is a large number of refugees and that there is an acute shortage of water supply in Jhajjar.

An hon. Member : "Jhajjar" is always full of water. (*Laughter*).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But in this case it is quite empty.
(*Renewed laughter*).

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY SALARY AND T. A. BILLS OF TAHSILDAR, GURGAON.

***1374. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the reason for undue delay in the payment of monthly salary and Travelling Allowance bills for the years 1947—48 and 1949 of a Tehsildar who served in district Gurgaon ;

(b) the leave salary of the same Tehsildar from 9-6-49 to 31-8-49 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a)—(b) Unless the name of the Tehsildar is given by the hon. Member, it is not possible to collect the requisite information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that a Tehsildar of Gurgaon has not yet been paid his travelling allowance and salary for the period he served in that district ?

Minister for Education : If the hon. Member tells us the name and the place of posting of the incumbent, action will be taken for the payment of his dues.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Well, Sir, I had mentioned the name of that Tehsildar in the original question, but it appears to have been omitted by the hon. Speaker, since rules do not permit disclosure of the name of a person about whom interpellations are made.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would like to clear the position so far as this particular question is concerned. Sometimes I find that questions which are not very important and which concern individuals, are put as starred questions. All the same I allow them after making suitable amendments therein. I try to avoid names but as the Government have expressed their inability to reply to this question for want of a name, I shall consider the course to be adopted in future to avoid this difficulty.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : As I have already submitted, I had given the name of the Tehsildar in the original question but it was omitted when the question was admitted.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member gave notice of a very lengthy question giving all the details but as I wanted him to be brief, I amended the question. For future, however, I shall consider what should be done in such cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that, that Tehsildar sent about fifty reminders to the Department and made every effort to realise his T. A. and salary Bills amounting to Rs. 1894/8/-, but failed to get them. May I know why such an inordinate delay has been caused in the payment of his dues ?

Minister : As I have already stated, if the hon. Member tells the place of posting as also the period, the disposal of the case will be expedited.

REFUGEE RELIEF FUND.

***1378. Pandit - Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Manager, Haryana Public High School, Gohana (Rohtak) has applied for special grant-in-aid from the Refugees Relief Fund ; if so, to what result ;
- (b) whether, the Haryana High School Sonapat has also applied for the same and if so, to what result ;
- (c) whether the requests are on the ground to accommodate a very large number of refugee students ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes. Refugees Relief Fund is meant for paying compensation to Schools in lieu of loss in fee income on account of their forced closure during disturbances, repairs to Educational Institutions used as Refugee Camps and maintenance of Camp Schools. No other grants are permissible. However special grants have been paid to Haryana Public High School Gohana and Sonapat out of the Provincial Revenues

(b) As in (a) above.

(c) Yes.

STATIONERY ALLOWANCE TO PATWARIS.

***1477. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether prior to 1932 the Patwaris were paid four annas each per mensem for the stationery used by them ;
- (b) whether the said allowance has been stopped ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) what other arrangements, if any, have been made by the Government for the supply of stationery to the patwaris ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) No. The patwaris are now being paid annas eight each per mensem as stationery allowance.

(c) Does not arise.

REDEMPTION OF LAND OWNED BY MUSLIM EVACUEES.

***1476. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area of land owned by the Muslim evacuees in the State of Punjab but mortgaged with possession with the non-muslims;
- (b) whether the Government has considered any measures for the redemption of such lands ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) 155,535 standard acres.

(b) Yes. The likely cost of redemption of mortgaged land is estimated at four and a half crores of rupees. This question was considered at a meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board, and it was decided that on account of paucity of funds, this was not an opportune time for embarking on such a scheme.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether instead of paying in cash, the Government have considered any other method for the redemption of these lands ?

Minister : At first it was decided to pay off the mortgagee and get the lands redeemed for purposes of allotment to the refugees. Since the amount involved was to the tune of 4½ crores of rupees, Government could not afford to pay it. So it is being considered to grant a part of the land to the mortgagees in lieu of their mortgage money and get the rest of the lands redeemed.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether it is also the policy of the Government to get these lands redeemed with a view to distributing them among those refugees who have not yet been allotted any lands ?

Minister : After the completion of the quasi permanent allotment of lands careful consideration will be given to the matter.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : When is this matter expected to be decided ?

Minister : As soon as possible, say within three or four months.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it the intention of the Government to get the lands redeemed by paying the mortgagee the value of his money on no profit no-loss basis ?

Minister : Government are giving their careful attention to this matter. It is considered that the market value of the land be paid to the mortgagees and get the lands redeemed. This is thought necessary because sometimes it so happens that the amount taken by the mortgagor is small as compared with the money for which the land is mortgaged.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But this does not take very long to accomplish the matter.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of paying off the money from the funds which have been collected as rent of evacuee property or from the sale proceeds of plots of land in different townships and thus bring about the redemption of these lands.

Minister : Government have no such idea at present.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the hon. Minister has any idea or estimate of the area of such lands left by Muslim evacuees but mortgaged in possession with the non-Muslims ?

Minister : The area of such lands is 155,535 standard acres.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how much land out of this area, has been taken by the Government for their own use ?

Minister : Not a single acre of land has been taken by the Government. The whole of the land is still in possession of the mortgagees.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know whether out of these 155,535 acres, Government have any attention to grant land to those displaced persons who were mortgagees of certain lands in Pakistan ?

Minister : So far this question has not been considered by the Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether Government would consider the desirability of permitting those displaced persons who are willing to pay the mortgage money to the mortgagee to get the lands redeemed and bring them under cultivation ?

Minister : Government have no intention to permit the displaced persons to pay for the redemption of mortgaged lands.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh : May I know when will the Government consider the question of granting lands to the displaced mortgagee from Pakistan ?

Minister : It is expected that the work of allotment of lands will be accomplished by the end of the month of March. After this such relevant matters will be attended to

Shri Virendra : May I know whether after the completion of the quasi permanent allotment of lands, any land will be left for distribution ?

Minister : After the completion of the allotment of lands several disputes would arise, which will have to be decided. When they have been settled, then it will be seen whether any land is left for distribution among the refugees.

Shri Virendra : If that is the expectation, then how does he propose to meet the claims of those who have not yet been allotted any lands ?

Minister : We have 155535 acres of mortgaged land which is to be redeemed and there is possibility of considerable area of culturable waste land being reclaimed and made available for distribution.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know why Government are not prepared to grant facilities to the rural refugees to get these lands redeemed when displaced persons in the cities and towns enjoy the same in the matter of redemption of mortgaged property.

Minister : Government have no intention to allow the rural refugees to get the mortgaged lands redeemed, because it is very likely that those displaced persons who can afford to pay the mortgaged money, will get them very cheaply to the detriment of the deserving people who would be getting those lands if the Government restituted them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister has remarked that the present financial position of the Government does not permit of getting these mortgaged lands redeemed and that individuals could not be allowed to get these lands redeemed because there is a likelihood of their getting them very cheaply. In view of this may I know whether Government intend to permit those refugees who have got less lands due to a cut in the acreage, to pay the mortgage money and get the land restituted ?

Minister : The financial position does not stand in the way. Government are thinking of a method, as I have already stated, by which the mortgage money could be paid in the form of a part of land, so that the remaining land be redeemed. For instance, ten acres of land in possession of a mortgagee could be redeemed by giving him two acres of land which covered the mortgage money.

HUTS IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

***1552 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :--

- (a) the total number of huts built by the Government in different refugee camps ;
- (b) the total number of persons occupying these huts ;
- (c) the total number of persons who have not been given any huts or houses and are still living in tents ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in building these huts ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Completed 8812.
In hand 4358.
(b) Number occupying completed huts 41,200.
(c) Number living under tents in camps 65,311.
(d) Rs. 21,15,954/- spent upto 30.11.49. Estimated total expenditure on construction of huts during current financial year :-
Rs. 44,00,000

Shri Virendra : It is the intention of the Government to build more huts besides these eight thousand huts ?

Minister : Thirteen thousand huts would be completed by 15th April 1950.

Shri Virendra : How many refugees would be accommodated in these huts ?

Minister : About sixty thousand.

Shri Virendra : What arrangements does the Government intend to make for the rest ?

Minister : Accommodation would also be provided for the rest i.e. about 15 thousand refugees.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the conditions under which these huts have been given to them. Are they to use these huts without any charges ?

Minister : They are being removed from the tents and accommodated in the huts. The question regarding the conditions as referred to by the hon. Member has not yet been decided.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh : Is there any proposal to make arrangements for those people who would be asked to vacate houses at the time of permanent allotment ?

Minister : The hon. Member's question related to the villages. If people other than the agriculturists want to live in the villages, they will be provided with land and cost for building their huts.

ANNUAL INCOME FROM MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTY.

* 1553. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :--

- (a) the total annual income from the Muslim Evacuee Property in the state ;
- (b) the total amount realised from the Muslim Evacuee Property during the period between 15th August, 1947 to 31st December, 1949 ;
- (c) the manner in which Government propose to utilise ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Rs. 1,22,43,682/6/1.

(b) Rs. 2,75,72,025/15/4 inclusive of sale proceeds of unclaimed property.

(c) No decision has yet been taken by the Government in this matter.

Shri Virendra : May I know the reasons as to why the same reply as was given to this very question last year is being given to-day also ?

Minister : At that time I was not a Minister.

Shri Virendra : How long will it take the Government to decide this matter ?

Chief Minister : The decision of this question is dependent upon the Inter Dominion agreement.

Shri Virendra : May I know if the same reply would be given by the hon. Minister next year also ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the hon. Minister is entitled to give evasive replies ?

Mr. Speaker : Order ! Order !

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the income of the Muslim Evacuee property is deposited in any bank. Has any interest been added to it ?

Minister : The amount is not spent but is deposited in the same account.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if any amount on account of interest has been added to it ?

Chief Minister : The whole amount is lying in the Government Treasury. It is not utilised in any direction but is reserved under the Head "Ways and Means".

CREATION OF POSTS OF ASSISTANT REGISTRARS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN URBAN REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT.

* 1373. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether some Posts of Assistant Registrars, Cooperative Societies were created in the Urban Rehabilitation Department in East Punjab ; if so, whether the Services were asked for from the Co-operative Department, and suitable officers deputed to Urban Rehabilitation Department, if not, why not ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The Director General, Rehabilitation (Urban) East Punjab wanted the following officers to work under the Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies (Rehabilitation).

1. Two Senior Permanent Assistant Registrars in the Cooperative Department of sufficient seniority, for appointment as Deputy Registrars.

2. Five Assistant Registrars having experience of work in urban areas having worked in such areas either as Inspectors or as Assistant Registrars.

But due to shortage of trained officers in the Department, the staff asked for could not be spared.

***1373. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that retired officials have been employed in the Urban Rehabilitation Department and that the officers from amongst the services have not been utilized ?

Minister : People from amongst the services could not be spared to do this work.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that there are about 40 trained persons working in the Co-operative Department who could have been employed in place of the retired officers ? May I know as to why persons from this department have not been employed in place of the retired persons who have been re-employed ?

Minister : The required number was not available and those who were available could not be spared.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know why the services of people from this department have not been utilized. Was this due to any departmental jealousy ?

Minister : No that was not the case.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the hon. Chief Minister wrote to him not to stick to old practices and appoint trained men already working in the department ?

Minister : It has never happened.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister never cared to accept any reasonable and right suggestions in this connection ?

Minister : The hon. Member never made any right or reasonable suggestion.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know if it would not be better to amalgamate both these departments in the interests of the Co-operative Societies ?

Minister : The suggestion of the hon. Member would be considered.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that the Co-operative Department set up previously was functioning satisfactorily. In the light of the above fact, may I know if there was any necessity to create Co-operative Department in the Rehabilitation Department ?

Chief Minister : The Co-operative Department could not cope up with this work. It was therefore felt necessary to get the work of Co-operative Societies in connection with rehabilitation done through this Rehabilitation Department.

Sardar Ajit Singh : In the light of the reply given by the hon. Chief Minister to the effect that Co-operative Department could not cope up with the work, May I know whether the new department has registered any societies. Is it a fact that this department has stopped advancing any loans to the societies registered by the Co-operative Department.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is giving information.

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if comparatively more societies have been registered by this new department since it started its work. Has this new department advanced any loans to the societies?

Sardar Partap Singh : May I know whether the Co-operative Societies created in the Urban Rehabilitation Department are also helpful to the refugees in the rural areas?

Chief Minister : Co-operative Societies have been formed in Urban Rehabilitation Department only. The same Societies would also be formed in the Rural Rehabilitation Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that on seeing the establishment of the Co-operative Societies in the Urban Rehabilitation, whenever the people of the rural areas approach the Government for help through the Co-operative Societies, they are informed that arrangements exist for urbanites only and that there was no such arrangement for the ruralites?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of the retired persons and the people from amongst the services in the Co-operative Societies of the Urban Rehabilitation Department?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Is it not the policy of the Government not to re-employ retired persons? Is it a fact that in spite of the trained hands already available in the department, retired persons have been re-employed?

Minister : Only trained persons have been employed.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : If it was a question of securing the services of technical men, may I know how many of those so appointed are technical hands?

Minister - Only those persons have been re-employed, who were experts, because the work that has been entrusted to them could not have been done by the Inspectors of the Co-operative Department.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Instead of creating a new Department, could not the object be achieved by expanding the existing Department?

Minister : The matter is receiving the attention of the Government and it is hoped that the existing Department will be expanded.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Does not the existence of two separate Departments result in mutual jealousy and friction leading to the retardation of work?

Chief Minister : If we feel that this is happening, we shall certainly amalgamate them without unnecessary delay and even if this doesn't happen they will be amalgamated in due course.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the number of trained persons in the regular Department is sufficient or not?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, we shall let him know the number of trained and untrained persons.

DISMISSAL OF A CLERK OF THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, AMBALA

***1376. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the dismissal of a clerk in the office of the Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Ambala has been cancelled by the Registrar, and the Government has to pay a sum of Rs. more than 1,300/- to the clerk concerned from the dates of his dismissal and re-instatement.

(b) the officer responsible for this loss to the Government and the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa. (a) First part. Yes.

Second part. No. Rs. 28/7/- only are payable to the clerk as he was temporary hand and was dismissed from service on 19/2/48 and his appointment in the normal course was to terminate on 29/2/1948.

(b) Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Delhi, passed the original order of dismissal in good faith. This order has been set aside in appeal. The question of taking any action against the officer does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does not the Government think that the officer whose orders have been declared against the rules by the Registrar has committed some offence or blunder?

Minister : There is no question of any blunder, having been committed. An official was dismissed but as a result of an appeal to the higher authority he has been reinstated.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But is it not a fact that the Registrar has remarked on his appeal, that the decision to dismiss him had been taken without giving a thought to the Civil service Rules?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Had I known that an appeal lay against the order, I would not have admitted this question. I would like the hon. Members not to put questions if any other remedy is open.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to draw your attention to an important matter. The remarks on the appeal are.

In passing the order of dismissal on such and such junior grade clerk in Assistant Registrar's office Ambala (E), the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, did not comply with the provisions of Rule 14-15 of C. S. R. Vol. I. The order is thus ultra vires.

Now Sir, in view of the fact that as a result of the illegal dismissal of an official, the Government has had to bear some loss, is it not proper that some action should be taken against the officer responsible for passing the dismissal orders?

Chief Minister : Sir, I beg to submit that the hon. Member has reaped something from an order which should be a confidential document. I am not here to verify what he has said and unless the presumption is correct, no reply is necessary.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

***1473. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :

- (a) The number of exhibitions of agricultural, Produce held by the Agricultural Assistants of each Tahsil in the Rohtak district from 1st April, 1948 upto 31st December, 1949.
- (b) the number of demonstrations held by the above mentioned staff to popularise the modern methods of agriculture during the period referred to in part (a) above in each Tahsil of the said district.

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The required information asked for in (a) and (b) above is given below :—

| Nature of demonstaation or Exhibition. | Names of Tahsils. | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| | Rohtak | Gohana | Sonepat | Jhajjar | Total |
| 1. No. of demonstration plots of various improved crops laid out. | 127 | 94 | 55 | 47 | 323 |
| 2. No. of practical demonstrations of improved implements improved cultivation, method of sowing etc. given to Zamindars | 617 | 448 | 609 | 220 | 1894 |
| 3. No. of meetings held by the staff. | 447 | 193 | 932 | 607 | 2179 |
| 4. No. of lectures delivered to the villagers. | 1147 | 1080 | 2380 | 1602 | 6209 |
| 5. Seed-produce exhibitions. | 20 | 18 | 24 | 12 | 74 |

UNCULTIVATED LAND IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***1562. Shree Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :

- (a) the cultivable land left uncultivated for the last five years, ten years, fifteen years, twenty years, thirty years and fifty years respectively in each Tehsil of the Ambala district ;
- (b) what means, if any, have so far been adopted to bring such land under the plough ;
- (c) whether any plan has been prepared by the district food production committee to make the grow more food drive a success in the district ;
- (d) the extent of voluntary co-operation, the district authorities succeeded in getting from the general public ;
- (e) the number of lectures so far delivered in the district in this respect for the benefit of the uneducated cultivators ;

- (f) the number, if any, of non-official members and congress workers of the district on the District Food Productions Committee and whether any of these persons was requested to participate in the lecturing programme ;
- (g) whether the non-official members of the said committee and the congress workers were asked to use the vehicles maintained for this purpose in the district for attending such meetings ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbaohan Singh Bajwa.

- (a) A statement is laid on the table.

Name of the Tehsils.

| Year | Ambala | | Naraingarh | | Jagadhri | | Kharar | | Rupar |
|---------|--------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------------|
| 1944-45 | 31788 | acres | 20433 | acres | 27435 | acres | 17464 | acres | 10876 acres. |
| 1939-40 | 29490 | -do- | 19062 | -do- | 28170 | -do- | 17216 | -do- | 11623 -do- |
| 1934-35 | 28450 | -do- | 23529 | -do- | 26416 | -do- | 18283 | -do- | 11536 -do- |
| 1929-30 | 32667 | -do- | 34936 | -do- | 29377 | -do- | 19698 | -do- | 13953 -do- |
| 1919-20 | 34988 | -do- | 26498 | -do- | 31524 | -do- | 21907 | -do- | 18191 -do- |

The information relating to 50 years' item is not available from Revenue Records.

- (b) (i) Individual proprietors have been persuaded by propaganda to break their own lands.
- (ii) Village common lands and lands belonging to landlords who do not possess adequate means to break up this land have been leased out for cultivation.
- (iii) Government waste land has been leased out at a nominal rent of Re. 1/-/- per acre and is being broken up by lessees.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Voluntary co-operation from the public is not forthcoming to the desired extent. Even the attendance of non-official members of the District and Tahsil Food Production Committees is very discouraging. In spite of constant persuasions exercised by the District authorities, the attendance of the non-official members in the said meetings has not shown any improvement. Sufficient co-operation is, however, forthcoming from the cultivators themselves as is evident from the largely attended public meeting convened in the Rural areas in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign as well as their response in taking up work according to the work chalked out by the District authorities.
- (e) District Level..... 55.
Tahsil „300.
- (f) (i) 11.

[Minister of Development]

- (ii) All members both officials and non-officials are expected to participate in and address meetings. No special requests are, therefore, made.
- (g) No.

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

***1575. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the quantity of maize, jowar, bajra and cotton-seeds *purchased* by the Government during the year 1949 ;
- (b) the rate per maund at which each of the aforesaid commodities was purchased ;
- (c) the incidental and other charges incurred by the Government per maund for each of these commodities ;
- (d) the control rate fixed by the Government for each of these commodities during the year 1949 ;
- (e) the price per maund for each of the above commodities charged by the Government seeds agencies from the Zamindars?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

**STOCKS OF BAJRA, JOWAR, ETC, IN THE POSSESSION OF
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.**

***1576. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state ;—

- (a) the total quantities of Bajra; jowar, Maize and Cotton Seeds separately in the possession of the Agriculture Department for seed purposes on 1st January, 1949.
- (b) the total price, including the incidental and other charges incurred by the Government for each of the aforesaid commodities ;
- (c) the average cost price per maund of each of the aforesaid commodities on 31st December, 1949.
- (d) the average sale price per maund of each of the aforesaid commodities charged by the Government Seed agencies from the zamindars during the year 1949.

(e) whether it is a fact that the prices charged per maund by the seed agencies were higher than the control prices fixed by the Government, if so, the difference per maund between the prices charged and the control price fixed for each of these commodities ;

(f) the reasons for charging the higher prices than the control price?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.*

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the reasons for variation in the incidental charges in respect of maize and Bajra ? The Government has shown less incidental charges in case of maize and more in case of Bajra. May I know why the charges were not uniform ?

Minister : Bajra was purchased at Rs. 9/4/- per maund and was sold at Rs. 10/- per maund and annas twelve are the incidental charges.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that the quantity of jawar purchased by the Government last year was found insufficient in the end of the year and the people experienced great difficulty in this behalf ?

Minister : Please do'n't talk of past things.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government is purchasing jawar in sufficient quantity this time ?

Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. May I know if there is any possibility of the questions that are postponed being taken up again during this session ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** As soon as my office receives replies to the postponed questions, these questions will be printed on a separate list.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will it be possible for the office to inform the members before-hand ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes. They will be informed before-hand.

TRANSFER OF JUDICIAL CLERKS.

* 1383. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that on the report of C.I.D. certain judicial clerks were transferred from Karnal to other places even outside the Division contrary to rules :

*Kept in the library.

[**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**].

(b) Whether the said report was to the effect that these clerks were hindering the corruption enquiry against a certain sub-judge ;

(c) Whether Government is satisfied that the report was correct ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Certain judicial clerks were transferred from Karnal to other districts on the report of the Special Inquiry Agency and not the C.I.D. The special circumstances of the case warranted this action.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Clerk of Court to Sessions Judge informed the Sub Inspector C.I.D. that certain officials were hindering the corruption enquiry against the Sub Judge and these officials were transferred ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Clerk of Court to Sessions Judge misguided the Sub Inspector that unless these persons were transferred an impartial enquiry was not possible ?

Chief Minister : I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the answer to part (b). So far as the question whether the Clerk of Court informed the Sub-Inspector, I require notice and to the question of the report of C.I.D. I have replied " yes."

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In part (c) I have enquired whether Government is satisfied that the reports are correct. If it is so, is not their transfer to other places outside the division contrary to rules ?

Chief Minister : High Court did not like to transfer them to places outside the division but it had to do so on the report of the C.I.D.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government satisfied that these officials were hindering the corruption enquiry ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say anything without making an enquiry. Copies of the departmental orders are not generally supplied by the High Court.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Clerk of Court has victimised these clerks for making complaint against this official and inquiry is also being made against him ?

Chief Minister : There is no truth in this statement.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the Government satisfied that the report against these officials was correct and that they were transferred on the basis of this report ; if it is so, whether Government propose to take any action against these officials who caused hindrance in the corruption enquiry ?

Chief Minister : Any person who would cause hindrance in any corruption enquiry will be suitably dealt with. So far as the question whether these officials were hindering the corruption enquiry, I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what sort of hindrance these officials were causing in the enquiry ?

Chief Minister : I cannot disclose the details.

UNIONS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

* 1440. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for local self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the employees including low paid staff of class IV of Civil Secretariat and other Departments have been allowed to form their Unions or Federations to ventilate their grievances ; if so, will he lay on the table a copy of the list of their names ;
- (b) whether any of these unions has sent up any representations to the Government to redress their hardships ;
- (c) whether the police employees have also been allowed to form their union ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes. A list of the registered unions of Government employees is laid on the table. Class IV employees have also been allowed to form their union and in reply to their request for its registration the Registrar, Trade Unions has told them to fulfil certain requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and as soon as this is done the union will be registered.

(b) Yes. All such representations are given due consideration-

(c) There is one East Punjab Police Clerical Cadre Association (Regd.)
List of Registered Unions of Punjab Government Employess.

1. Government Central Workshop Labour Union, Amritsar.
2. High Court Employees Union, Simla.
3. East Punjab Daftries Association, Simla.
4. Restorers Union, East Punjab Civil Secretariat, Simla.
5. East Punjab Press Workers Union, Simla.
6. East Punjab Subordinates Services Federation, Simla.
7. East Punjab Police Clerical Cadre Association, Simla.
8. East Punjab P.W.D. Electricity Branch, Subordinate Services Association,
9. East Punjab P.W.D. Electricity Branch, Technical Services Union.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Sub-Inspectors Police and Head Constables and other employees in the Executive Department can also form a union ?

Shri Virendra : Can M.L.A's be allowed to form their union ?

Chief Minister : There is already a union of their own.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can the 'baby' members of the Assembly have special permission to form their union ? [Laughter].

SELECTION GRADE FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE.

* 1441. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the Superintendent of Police and the Senior Superintendents of Police who were given selection grade between the period 6. 4. 49 to 1. 12. 49 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

(b) the monthly salary of each of such officers before and after they were given selection grade ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) & (b) Following officers were promoted as Superintendents of Police, selection grade, between the periods from 6. 4. 49 to 1. 12. 49. Their monthly salary before and after promotion is also given against each :—

| Name of officer. | Date of Promotion. | Monthly salary before promotion. | Monthly salary after promotion. |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ch. Ram Singh, I.P. Senior Supdt. of Police, Amritsar. | 20. 9. 49. | Rs. 900/- | Rs. 1250/-. |
| 2. Mr. F.B. Manley I.P. Principal, Police Training School, Phillaur. | 17. 11. 49 | Rs. 800/-
(£ 25 SOP) | Rs. 1450/-.
(£ 30 SOP) |

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Government take into consideration the figures of crimes and recoveries before giving them selection grade ?

Chief Minister : Yes. Government take all factors into consideration.

PROVISION FOR RADIO SET FOR POLITICAL CONVICTS AND DETENUS.

* 1443. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- whether a Radio set has been provided in any of the jails in the Punjab in which Communist detenues are confined ;
- whether in any of the jails in which detenues are confined harmonium is allowed to the detenues ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes, in Ambala, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Jullundur and Hissar jails.

(b) No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the harm in case harmoniums are taken inside the jails ?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Would the hon. Member be allowed to carry harmonium when he goes inside ?

Chief Minister : Special treatment may be given to some cases.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN DISTRICT COURTS OF ROHTAK AND HISSAR.

* 1479. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any seating arrangements exist either inside or

outside the courts for the litigants and their witnesses in the district courts of Rohtak and Hissar; if not, what action, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Seating arrangements for the litigants and their witnesses exist in the district courts at Rohtak. No special arrangements for the purpose, however, exist at Hissar and the matter is being considered?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that no sitting accommodation exists in the courts of the Additional District Magistrate as also of other magistrates?

Minister : I have already replied.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that no necessity is felt owing to there being a large number of Neem trees outside the courts.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has the hon. Minister been to Hissar after he was installed as a Minister?

Minister : I belong to Hissar.

VACANCIES IN P. C. S. (EXECUTIVE BRANCH.)

***1482. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of posts in the P. C. S. (Executive Branch) which are likely to fall vacant during the next year;
- (b) the number of vacancies which are proposed to be filled by nomination and the number reserved for open competition?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 25 during the year 1950.

- (b) It is proposed to fill up 9 posts by competition and the remaining 16 by promotion from among officials already in service. Of these 16, 7 have already been filled.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Are some vacancies to be filled by direct nomination?

Chief Minister : No.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES.

***1483. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the provisions contained in the Constitution of India in force from 26th January, 1950, any instructions have been issued by the Government to the Heads of Departments and to the Punjab Public Service Commission to give no consideration of any kind to communal representation either in fresh appointments of a temporary or permanent nature, or in the case of promotions or transfers of all ranks of service both gazetted and non-gazetted if so, will he lay a copy of those instructions on the table?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to Assembly Question No. 1445 (Starred).†

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Have any instructions been issued to the Heads of Departments in cases of promotion ?

PUNJAB LAND ALIENATION ACT.

***1564 Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government has asked the Legal Remembrancer to examine the legal and constitutional aspect of the Punjab Land Alienation Act in the context of the Constitution of Bharat in force from 26th January, 1950, if so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table ?

The hon. Sardar Narotom Singh : The matter is under consideration. Opinion of Legal Remembrancer even when received is a confidential document and cannot be placed on the table.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Minister please say if any action has been taken on the confidential report submitted by Legal Remembrancer ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister kindly place the communication for the approval of the President on the table of the House ?

Minister : The hon. member can see it in the gazette.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the Government in this connection very led by legal considerations or political ?

Minister : Mostly legal.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Did this Government send its views to the Central Government ?

Minister : Necessity did not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But is the Government considering any alteration in the Act as was said by the Chief Minister the other day ?

Chief Minister : I did not talk of any amendment in the Act.

SUPPLY OF CHARCOAL AND WOOD TO SIGNALLERS OF THE CANAL DEPARTMENT.

***1581. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the signallers of the Canal Department Telegraph Offices in the rural and urban areas used to get five seers charcoal and twenty seers of wood per mansam during the winter season before 1st January, 1948 ?

†Vide Debates of 24-3-50.

- (b) Whether the Signallers working in the rural areas were asked not to use the aforesaid charcoal and wood during the year 1949-50 while the signallers working in urban areas are getting the supplies as usual ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes (Not per month but per day at the rate of 5 seers charcoal or 20 seers fuelwood).

- (b) No distinction exist between Signallers working in rural and urban areas and they are still being issued five seers charcoal or 20 seers wood per day for office angithis in cold periods of the year.

RESIGNATION OF CHAUDHRI KARTAR SINGH CHIEF WHIP.

***1623. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Kartar Singh has resigned from the Chief Parliamentary Secretaryship, if so the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. Under the constitution of India Chaudhri Kartar Singh could not have held an office of profit while being a Member of this Assembly. The necessary legislation validating the appointment of certain M. L. As. as Parliamentary Secretaries is to be enacted during the current session of the Assembly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On what date did Chaudhri Kartar Singh resign ?

Chief Minister : On the 25th.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Chief Minister himself asked for his resignation ?

Chief Minister : Official secrets cannot be disclosed.

PRISONERS.

***1629. Chaudri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of prisoners in all the Jails of the Punjab on 1-1-50 ;
- (b) the number of the criminals and the political prisoners, community-wise ;
- (c) the number of the criminals and the political prisoners separately before the partition of the Punjab in all the Jails referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 9,651.

- (b) (i) Figures for prisoners are not kept community-wise in the Jails Department.

[Chief Minister]

(ii) There are no political prisoners in the Punjab. There are 268 detenus of different classes who are being kept in detention to prevent them from indulging in subversive activities.

(c) The number of prisoners in the Jails referred to in (a) was 6,746 just before the partition of the Punjab. The number of political prisoners was 528.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What is the maximum accommodation in the Punjab jails ?

Chief Minister : For over five thousand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the principle of communal representation observed in jails as in services ?

Chief Minister : We don't like these questions but sometimes we are forced to answer them.

COMMUNIST DETENUS.

*1652 **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of communist Detenus in all jails of the State ;
- (b) the number of those who applied for the family allowances ;
- (c) the number of those who are getting the family allowance ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

| | | |
|-----|-----|----------------|
| (a) | 231 | (upto 7.3.50.) |
| (b) | 209 | (-do-) |
| (c) | 69 | (d-o-) |

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Are all the remaining 150 applications under consideration ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to say that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What is the reason that these applications have not been disposed of in about a period of six month's time ?

Chief Minister : The question can be answered on notice ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra -) What is the basis of their allowances ?

Chief Minister : The condition of the family etc. is taken into consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is not a fact that some persons who have absolutely no means of subsistence have not been given any allowance ?

Chief Minister : Action will be taken if hon. Member gives definite cases.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is not a fact that Government is mostly led by the reports of the C.I.D. and not by the advice of local respectable people ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should give a definite case.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Government takes action on the reports of the Police or the Revenue Department ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Are there any applications which are still pending ?

Chief Minister : Answer can be given on notice.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Is it not a fact that the allowances given to communist detenus are spent not on maintenance but on subversive active ties ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Sardar Sahib appears to be suffering from a mania.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

JUDICIAL LOCK UP AT PATTI

431. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether plans for the construction of a judicial lock up at Patti referred to in unstarred Assembly question No. 340. during the Autumn Session have been completed ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that there has been over-crowding in the Patti Police lock up for the last many months on account of the large number of accused persons awaiting trials in the court of the resident Magistrate at Patti, if so, the action Government intends to take to redress their grievances ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No. The plan is still under the consideration of Government, as certain modifications have to be effected therein to make Judicial Lock-up later convertible into a sub-jail.

(b) No such complaint has been received by Government so far

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE BALER, TEHSIL PATTI.

432. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the allotment of land in village Baler, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar has been completed ;
- (c) the total area and the grade of the evacuee land in the above mentioned village ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

(c) the name of the land owner to whom land in this village was allotted temporarily ;

(d) whether the temporary allottee referred to in part (c) above has been disturbed ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

(a) Yes.

(b) Total area = 7— $9\frac{3}{4}$ S. A Units

Grade = 1st.

(c) S. Kartar Singh s/o S. Ram Singh.

(d) Yes.

The temporary allottee was entitled to get 20 standard acres $7\frac{3}{4}$ units whereas an area of 7 std. acres $9\frac{3}{4}$ units was available.

The area to the extent to which this allottee was entitled was also not available in the adjoining villages where the temporary allottees of those particular villages were provided. In order to give him a compact block he had to be disturbed.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE BOOH TEHSIL PATTI.

433. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of land under the quasi-permanent scheme at village Booh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar has been completed ;

(b) whether any temporary allottees of this village who had migrated from Kasur Tehsil area (Pakistan) and were holding 1st grade land there have been disturbed ; if so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi :

(a) Yes.

(b) Some sitting allottees who were holding 1st grade lands in Kasur Tehsil were disturbed in the first instant, but on revision all the 1st grade temporary allottees of Kasur Tehsil who expressed their desire for allotment in their original village of temporary allotment i. e. village Booh have been allotted land there.

BARANI AND CHAHI AREA.

434. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :

(a) the total barani and chahi area respectively of the villages namely Jabhowal Sangrawan, Muchhal, Jodha, Nagri, Dehri-

wala, Singhpura, Bhattike, Rankala and Tangra, tehsil and district Amritsar ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the barani area of these villages is far in excess of the chahi area ;
- (c) whether any area is irrigated by the canal water in any of these villages ; if not, the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to irrigate the barani lands of these villages ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) A statement showing the requisite information is attached.

(b) No, except in three villages.

(c) **First Part :** No,

Second Part : The scheme to irrigate the barani areas in Amritsar district will be taken up when and if additional supplies are made available. The question of inclusion of the areas of these villages will be considered along with those schemes.

Statement showing the area of Barani and Chahi lands of certain villages in tehsil Amritsar,

| S.
No. | Name of village | Area in Acres | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| | | Barani. | Chahi. |
| 1. | Jabhowal | 1,168 | 691 |
| 2. | Sangawan | 130 | 124 |
| 3. | Muchhal | 565 | 1281 |
| 4. | Jodha Nagri | 269 | 487 |
| 5. | Dehriwala | 718 | 736 |
| 6. | Singhpura | 136 | 118 |
| 7. | Bhattike | 267 | 353 |
| 8. | Tangra | 448 | 497 |
| 9. | Ranakala | 284 | 299 |

Demands for Grants

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

Minister For Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : I move—

[3 P.M.] That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,01,980 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,01,980 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

I have received notice of one cut motion on an item and notices of several cut motions on the demand as a whole. It would, I think, be better if we stick to the previous practice of taking up a cut motion on the whole demand and discuss the general policy of the Government under that demand.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is there time limit, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : I fix 20 minutes for the mover of the motion and 15 minutes for others. I would ask Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar to move his cut motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Mehta Ranbir Singh should be allowed to move his motion first since it is at a place prior to that of Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar.

Mr. Speaker : If he and those hon. Members who have given notices of cut motions relating to different items in the demand press for their motions I have no objection to allowing them. But in that case the whole time would be taken up by those motions and the House will have no opportunity to discuss the general policy of the Government underlying this demand ; so it would be better if we follow the past practice.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The rules should be strictly followed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If the motion given notice of by Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar is to be taken up first, hon. Members who have given notices of other cut motions should be called upon to express their views.

Mr. Speaker : If they wish to press their motions I have no objection.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union, Labour) (Hindi) : I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sir, we have a very important subject of 'Grow More Food' before us. I find that in spite of the efforts of the Central and Provincial Governments, the results have been far from satisfactory. We have been trying to increase the production of foodgrains in this country since the Bengal-famine of 1945. In this connection I wish to place some figures before the hon. Members. In these figures the production of 1938-39 has been taken as 100.

| | 1939-40 | 1945-46 | 1947-48 | 1948-49. |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Rice | 98 | 96 | 98 | 95 |
| Wheat | 104 | 84 | 76 | 73 |
| Gram | 94 | 100 | 137 | 147 |
| Cotton | 89 | 52 | 52 | 44 |
| Sugar-cane | 88 | 102 | 118 | 101 |
| General Agricultural Produce | 99 | 94 | 97 | 92 |

It would be noticed that the production of rice, wheat, cotton and all agricultural produce taken together was lower in 1948-49 than in 1938-39. I have taken these figures from the 'Eastern Economist'. I am not in possession of separate figures for the Punjab and therefore cannot speak about the

results achieved here. The situation is full of dangers and I wish to draw the attention of the House to some of these. On going through the Budget, it would be noticed that a large sum of money is going to be spent on the purchase of tractors. I have no objection to these being purchased as proposed but it should not be forgotten that we cannot increase the production of foodgrains by this act alone. It is wrong to think that with the help of tractors, food can be grown on all the waste land. These can help in levelling and ploughing the land but production of food does not depend on this factor alone, but on so many others as water, selection of suitable seeds etc.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Is it in the personal knowledge of the hon. Member ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : I am expressing my views and if the hon. Member thinks that these are wrong, he can correct me during the course of his speech. What our country lacks is not manual labour, rather there is an excess of it. There is no need for such labour-saving devices, useful only where there is scarcity of labour. What we lack is that before training, education and organisation and proper planning. It would be remembered, Sir, that Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of our Republic, said a few days back that a large bulk of labour in this country is jobless. If we take to cultivation with the help of tractors, more people would lose employment. It will mean a great loss to the country and the situation resulting therefrom will be full of serious consequences. Some landlords are purchasing tractors and are ejecting tenants from their lands. This would lead to the spread of unemployment. We are adopting a very dangerous course and it would not be advisable to follow this policy in our 'Grow More Food Campaign'. It is known to every hon. Member that ninety eight per cent of land is tilled by the tenants. We would be wasting money if we thought that we could increase production of foodgrains by purchasing tractors. At present the 'Grow More Food' campaign is being carried on in the whole country I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to a few observations made by the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee. It is stated in its Report as follows :—

The Committee feels that there cannot be any lasting improvement in agricultural production and efficiency without comprehensive reforms in the country's land system. The Congress in its election manifesto and the Report of the Economic Programme Committee has declared itself in favour of the elimination of all intermediaries between the State and the tiller.

The Committee has laid special emphasis on immediate prevention of all evictions and the preparation of record of rights by local Land Tribunals with which non-official opinion will be associated.

From my personal knowledge, I can say that in Ferozepore and other districts, land is lying uncultivated. On the one hand, the Government does not want any land to be left uncultivated. An Act has also been passed for this purpose. On the other hand we find that a lot of land is lying uncultivated in Ferozepur District and elsewhere. The landlords here are ejecting the tenants and the land so vacated is lying uncultivated. This policy is against the campaign of Grow More Food. I would like to submit that the problem of agriculture should be tackled as a whole and not in fragments. We should not allow ourselves to become victims of this craze for wholesale mechanisation of agriculture, which would throw out of work large numbers of tenants. In the end, the results would be full of many other complications.

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar.]

The Government of India has advanced us less amount of loan this year as compared with the previous year. But it does not mean that our needs have also been satisfied. The Government should find out some other means to make up the deficiency that has been caused in the loan got from the Government of India. Other countries like England have succeeded in increasing their food production by 50 per cent. while we who have enough labour and also intelligence for planning, have not been able to effect much increase in agricultural production. I would like to point out that we cannot succeed in this campaign with the help of officials only, for whose salaries Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 7 lakhs have been set aside. Unless and until we create a popular spirit in support of this campaign, as has been done in England, success is not possible. In England, we learn even the students go to work in agricultural farms on Sundays and other holidays and for this work they don't charge anything. They feel that something should be done to make up the deficit in food. This is the spirit that has been created among the people of England.

Our hon. Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru has placed before us the target of the year 1951 after which no food grains would be imported. It is, therefore, necessary that the public should be made to realise the importance of grow more food campaign, and a spirit of help and co-operation should be created among them to make this campaign a success, so that our target of the year of 1951 may be achieved. I have no hesitation in saying that if we depend wholly on machinery for this purpose, our campaign is likely to fail. I may point out that even the changes in the Ministry will fail to bring any significant change in the economic situation of the State. The merciless criticism of the Ministers which we indulge in here, is usually petty and of a very low order and at times inspired with personal motives. We should, as a matter of fact, be charitable to our colleagues and constructive in our comments. I may tell my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh who wants to put questions to me that we are all at the same level so far as the administrative capacity and success in running the Government is concerned. The present Ministers have proved neither better nor worse than the previous ones. The ex-Ministers too cannot claim any bigger achievement. The standard was even then as low as it is now and we lack a sense of responsibility. Instead of indulging in mutual leg-pulling, we should try to help each other. Unless that is done, no success is possible. Without this co-operation who-so-ever might be the Minister he will fail. Our problems cannot be solved by hovering around the bungalows of the hon. Ministers. For this purpose we will have to hover round the cottages of the people themselves. Our hon. Ministers and their officers should go to the villages and should inspire students and other sections of public with enthusiasm and self confidence and a profound spirit for service. I know that a large number of trees were planted at Amritsar in connection with Grow More Trees campaign. But later on, most of the trees died for want of water. These campaigns have at present only propaganda value and lack popular co-operation. The Government has provided money for the salaries of the staff and for machinery; but it has cut down the provision for the sinking of wells. If there are wells, people can work them even with hand. But if there is no water, even machinery would be of no avail. I, therefore, submit that there is need for changing the fundamental policy of the Government. In spite of the fact that large sums have been spent on Grow More Food campaign during the current year, the production is less than that in year 1944-45 or 1945-46. A radical change in policy is necessary.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sardar Kabul Singh (Jullundur East Sikh, Rural) *Punjabi* : Sir, there are no two opinions about the importance of Grow More Food campaign. Without doubt, we shall have to improve the economic conditions of our people, if we want to maintain our independence. It is also a fact that our leaders and the Governor as well have given top priority to this matter. Even the Government pointed out in his Address that an agriculturist was the centre of all Governmental activity. No doubt, stress is being laid on agriculture, but in actual practice its importance is not being fully realised. Only the other day, the Director of Agriculture addressed a meeting of Members of the Assembly. He pointed out that American variety of cotton should be sown. This shows that we attach more importance to money economy than to the basic needs of our country. Sir, our officers think more of the money economy and no attention is paid to the primary needs. The report of the Economic Programme Committee, whose president is Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, lays emphasis upon the best interests of the people. In this connection the importance of Grow More Food campaign cannot be under-estimated. We should try our utmost to increase the production of foodgrains. For the betterment of the State every village should be made self-sufficient. Between the Government on the one hand and the kisan on the other there should be no third person. This middle class should be completely excluded, so that our economy may be made to stand on a sound footing. If we do not make efforts to improve our economy our independence is of no use. Every one knows that freedom and economy depend upon one another. Without a sound economic system no country can retain its independence. If any country depends upon another it commits a fundamental mistake. In fact no country can afford to look to another country for its necessities. In the sphere of production the main difficulty at present appears to be the deterioration of relationship between the landlords and the tenants. This loss of confidence between the landlords and the tenants has an adverse effect upon production. Landlords are afraid of the fact that their tenants want to become owners of the lands they have been cultivating. The result of this feeling is that they are taking to tractors thus ejecting the tenants and throwing them out of jobs. Tenants too are growing suspicious on their side. They therefore do not put their minds in their work. In my opinion our problems are quite different from those of other countries. We should not try to copy others without any understanding of the real position. We cannot become so progressive all of a sudden as Russia, America, Canada etc. But on the other hand we have to plan our economy according to our own circumstances. While a rich country like America can make use of Dollars we on the other hand should think of utilizing our man power which we have in abundance. We have to find work for our people. In order to do so I think we should pay more attention to the development of our cottage industries. Encouragement should be provided so that those who are without any work may find a source of employment. There is no gainsaying the fact that the revival of cottage industries will help in re-establishing the village economy.

Another thing which the hon. Members must consider is that land should be held only by those who cultivate it themselves. It should, in fact, be an employment source only. Those who do not themselves till lands should be asked to give their lands to the village societies.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the hon. Member be prepared to surrender his land?

Sardar Kabul Singh : Most surely. In this connection I wish to quote the following few lines from the report of the Economic Programme Committee.

Land should be held for use and as a source of employment. The use of lands of those who are either non-cultivating land holders or otherwise unable for any period to exercise the right of cultivating them, must rest in the village co-operative community subject to the condition that the original lawful holder or his successor will be entitled to come back to the land for genuine cultivation. In the case of minors and the physically incapacitated, a share of the produce of the land should be given to them.

Sir, my contention is that this view can give a convenient solution of the landlord-tenant problem. The lack of goodwill that has at present strained the relations between the two can be removed in this manner. For the sake of the country we must try to do whatever we can to bring about a friendly feeling between these sections of our people.

As regards Grow-More-Food campaign there has been a lot of negligence. If the public opinion had been strong, responsible persons including the former Premier if found guilty would have been hanged.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Including the former Parliamentary Secretaries.
(Laughter)

Sardar Kabul Singh : Lakhs of rupees have been wasted. Those who are responsible for such losses to the public finances are guilty and they owe an explanation to the people of the State. The officers have been going about giving lectures to the farmers on Grow More Food campaign. Tehsildars, Deputy Commissioners and Financial Commissioners undertook such tours. Meetings were held here and there. I feel that all this has been done simply to charge travelling allowances and if I may say so to throw dust into the eyes of the public. I do not consider it a genuine effort. I think if it had been announced by the Government that only a nominal charge will be realised from the zamindars who volunteer to till waste or fallow lands, I am sure, that the zamindars would have gladly accepted the offer and brought those lands under cultivation. All this would have resulted in increased production of food grains and in fact this offer would have given a fillip to the Grow More Food campaign. I am also to point out that so many lands are still lying uncultivated and they can be easily leased out to the needy zamindars but nothing has been done in this direction. To my mind the chief reason is that the Government has not set a policy in the matter. It is doing things haphazardly. I still feel that if some of the hon. Ministers had toured the villages and asked the zamindars to cultivate those vacant lands for the purpose of growing more food grains, they would have come forward in large numbers to help the Grow More Food campaign. It appears to me that Government has miserably failed to create that enthusiasm in the zamindars in regard to Grow More Food campaign which the gravity of time demands in view of the scarcity of food grains. Besides, the reason of this failure is more or less due to the lack of action on the part of the Government itself. Its actions more often than not belie its professions. I have given my careful consideration to this matter and I have arrived at the conclusion that all the schemes of the Government are based on commercial principles, namely whether they would pay or not. It forgets that we are passing through grave times which require bold schemes for the benefit of the people, to be enforced boldly, irrespective of the fact that they

are going to prove a paying proposition or not. As a matter of fact the criterion of such schemes should be whether they answer the purpose of the people and whether they will pay. (*Hear, hear*). Government do not constitute a Beopar Mandal, they are here to serve the people. (*Hear hear*). They should take constructive steps to see that production of food grains is stepped up in the State of Punjab and only those crops are produced which cater to the primary needs of the people. It is obvious that the increased production of food grains of primary necessity would make our country immune from our dependence upon other countries. We will have no longer then to import foreign wheat. I, therefore, request that every inch of land that is available for cultivation or which can be reclaimed for purposes of cultivation, should be distributed among the zamindars. Then tractors were procured by the Government for the reclamation of land but that scheme too has been abandoned. There are hundreds of tenants who want the permission of the Government to reclaim land. I think if Government had asked the tenants that they should reclaim certain lands and till them on the condition that no land revenue will be charged on them for two or three years, a good deal of land would have been reclaimed by now. I again say at the cost of repetition that if we desire that our State should make rapid progress, our Government should see that the zamindars do not take to money crops but should produce those crops which meet the primary requirements of the people. Then my hon. Friend Sardar Kartar Singh advocated the production of money crops like tobacco. I do not see eye to eye with him regarding this suggestion. Since this commodity no longer forms the primary need of the people at large, its production should not have precedence over crops of primary necessities and the Government should definitely discourage such moves. I would therefore request the Government to give a practical shape to such schemes as are calculated to benefit the people. If they fail to do so, they would be creating an impression on the minds of the public that they do not act upon what they profess and that instead of doing any constructive thing they indulge in tall talks. I am reminded of a couplet of Iqbal, which aptly applies to the occasion:

ਇਕਬਾਲ ਬੜਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ਕ ਹੈ ਮਨ ਬਾਤੋਂ ਮੇਂ ਮੋਹ ਲੇਤਾ ਹੈ ।
ਗੁਫ਼ਤਾਰ ਕਾ ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ੀ ਬਨ ਤੋ ਰਹਾ, ਕਿਰਦਾਰ ਕਾ ਗ਼ਾਜ਼ੀ ਬਨ ਨਾ ਸਕਾ ।

इकबाल बड़ा उपदेशक है मन बातों में मोह लेता है ।
गुफ़्तार का ग़ाज़ी बन तो रहा किरदार का ग़ाज़ी बन ना सका ॥

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, on perusal of Demand No. 35, which is now under discussion of the House, I find that a sum of rupees 54 lakhs has been provided for two purposes, namely, land reclamation and mechnical cultivation in the Punjab and sinking of tube wells on no profit and no loss basis. Out of this amount a provision of Rs. 35 lakhs has been made for the first item and Rs. 50 thousand for the purchase of jeeps. Since this department administering agricultural improvement and research came into existence after the last Budget session, a sum of rupees 57 lakhs which was spent in 1949-50, has also been shown in the revised estimates of the budget. So if we add together both these amounts of Rs. 57 lakhs and Rs. 54/- lakhs, we find that a total sum of Rs. 111 lakhs would be spent by the end of this financial year. Since I was not aware of the creation of this department, I could not answer, a few months ago, the

[S. Swaran Singh.]

query of some village people. They told me that they had heard about several departments, but asked, what was that "golmol" department recently set up by the Government. (*Laughter*). At that time I really did not know of this "golmol" department but when I perused the Budget, I found that this "golmol" (a misnomer for "Grow More Food") department existed in the true sense of the word. (*Laughter*).

Then, Sir, so far as the first item for which Rs. 35/- lakhs has been demanded is concerned, you will find that Rs. 4,72,510 has been earmarked for payment of salaries to the staff and Rs. 3,71,000 for meeting the total of other allowances and honoraria. If we go deep into the matter and study the details closely at page 565 of the Budget, we find only Rs. 28,000 has been provided for the purchase and maintenance of draught animals while Rs. 4, 36, 950 is set apart for the purchase and repair of implements. The matter does not stop here. Other contingencies come in for Rs. 12, 93, 500/-. In other words out of the total sum, Rs. eight lakhs and odd are to be expended on the establishment and Rs. 26 lakhs on total contingencies which includes a sum of Rs. 1293000 for unspecified items. So far as this particular item of unspecified contingencies is concerned, I feel it is just like giving a blank cheque to the department. And then giving no details about its expenditure as to how and in what manner it is going to be utilised, tantamounts to playing a huge joke with this honourable House. I have carefully gone through the Memorandum and have failed to find out how this amount of Rs. 1293000 is going to be utilised. Out of the total amount of about Rs. 57 lakhs provided under the Head "Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research", a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been spent on total contingencies and sinking of tube wells and Rs. 30 lakhs on the tractors. The rest of the amount has been spent on the establishment. It has been stated in the Budget that this scheme has been embarked upon 'no profit no loss basis'. So far as the scheme of Land Reclamation and Mechanical cultivation is concerned, we do not find any reference in the Budget Estimates about its working on 'no profit no loss basis'. However I have been informed by the Director of Agriculture that money is being spent on this scheme on the same no profit no loss basis. When it is the intention of the Government to spend money on this scheme on 'no profit no loss basis, then it is crystal clear that the whole brunt of expenditure will have to be borne by the poor zamindars as it is they who are deeply concerned with the tractor cultivation. This is not all, If a zamindar purchases a tractor and brings his land under cultivation through it, even then he has to pay some amount to the Government. We find more increase in the provision for staff and the unspecified contingencies. It is abundantly clear from this that the whole brunt of expenditure is to be borne by the poor zaminders for bringing their land under tractor cultivation. In this connection I am reminded of a story. Once three villagers decided to make some sweet preparation. All of them had to make some contribution and they discussed how to proceed. One of them said that he would get sugar. Another villager offered to bring a bowl and the third offered to bring atta. In the meantime another villager came there and he also wanted to join them. When he was told as to what contribution he would be prepared to make, he replied that he had nothing to spare but he would go on stirring the pudding in the bowl by his little finger. What I mean to say is that our Government is not actually contributing anything itself to the Grow More Food campaign but is merely taking the credit for it while all the contributions are made by the growers themselves. If this state of affairs continues, I am afraid that our Government will utilize its proverbial little finger and thus spend the whole amount contributed by the poor

growers themselves. Under the scheme of Grow More Food campaign, instead of providing maximum facilities to growers, we find huge amounts being provided for more vehicles and jeeps and heavy staff and other such items. In view of this fact I am of the opinion that the growers who do not derive any benefits from these multi-campaigns are sure to gain much if they embark upon this scheme on a co-operative basis.

Further we find an overhead expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs for the maintenance of the staff. I do not find any need for such heavy and overhead expenses under the Grow More Food scheme. This will be a cause of a great burden over the growers. On the one hand we find the Government expressing its determination to make the State self-sufficient so far as the food production is concerned, while on the other we find that instead of providing facilities to growers to increase their food production, they are being over-burdened by providing huge amounts for the staff and other unnecessary items under the scheme.

A pamphlet namely 'Punjab Plans for Plenty' has been supplied to us to-day. It is a small pamphlet and I have gone through it during the question hour. I have not been able to find anything substantial in it. In spite of the huge amounts spent by the Government on different schemes, I have not been able to find that the growers have derived any benefit from them. On page 11 of this pamphlet I find that a sum of Rs. 2,59,000 has been provided for grants to the people for sinking surface percolation wells. I was really gratified to note that grants to the tune of Rs. 2,59,000 would be made available to growers. But on enquiring from the hon. Chief Minister whether it was really a fact that this sum was to be granted to growers, I was informed that this was an old item and that the amount was not to be spent for that purpose. After studying all these facts and figures, I have come to the conclusion that it would not be wrong to call this department a "*Golmol*" department.

Shri Virendra : Better call it "*Golmal*"

Sardar Swaran Singh : My hon. Friend can call this department by any name he pleases and I shall be quite in agreement with him in making any amendment he pleases so far as this department is concerned. I do not find any justification on the part of the Government in continuing overhead and top heavy expenditure. In fact there would have been some justification if the same expenditure were incurred for the maintenance of Law and Order in the State. But that is not the case here. This department exists for providing maximum facilities to the growers to increase their food production. So far as the scheme in connection with Land Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation is concerned, the growers pay from their own pockets to bring their land under tractor cultivation. They have to incur many other expenses too in this connection. They have to bear various kinds of expenses incurred in connection with the tractors, Jeeps, drivers and weapon carriers. Besides they have to bear the expenses of the overhead expenses of the staff. In this connection I would like to make it clear that by making these remarks I am not indulging in any criticism merely for the sake of opposition. Far from that. I have experienced that those who have utilized tractors for bringing their land under tractor cultivation, complain that their return has been much less than the cost. I have studied all the figures and have arrived at this conclusion that the salient feature under the Grow More Food campaign is that maximum facilities should be afforded to zamindars so that they may be in a position to increase their food production. If this is done, I am sure, there will be an increase in the income of the zamindars. There is no need to carry

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on any propaganda work. There is no necessity to impress upon them to grow more food for they know their job well. They know it full well that the more they produce the more they would gain. They also know that every inch of land cultivated by them is sure to add to their income. The pressing need of the hour is to provide maximum facilities to them. It is therefore no use employing a heavy staff and spending huge amounts unnecessarily on jeeps and other vehicles. It is no use sermonizing to the zamindars that Government has provided Rs. 1,50,00,000 under the Grow More Food scheme. The only need of the hour is to provide them with adequate facilities. Mere provisions under the Grow More Food campaign in the Budget are not going to satisfy them. They want some tangible thing to be done for them so that they may receive the maximum benefits. These poor people have to incur various kinds of expenses. They have to pay even the interest on the Taccavi loans. It appears to me that the department is working just like a limited company whose managing directors earn huge profits. So far as this department is concerned, money is being wasted like anything and the object for which money is being spent is not achieved. The result of this expenditure seems to be quite insignificant, rather nil. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that the Government of India should be approached with a request for some monetary help to the zamindars who are doing their best to make the country self-sufficient in foodgrains. All the money that they had to spend on subsidizing the imported foodgrains, in order to keep their prices at par with the prices prevailing in this country, should for sometime be spent for the encouragement of the zamindars, since it is due to their efforts that the need for importing food is gradually being obviated, and we hope to get rid of it very soon. (Cheers), Arrangements should be made to distribute the money thus saved among the zamindars who are making the 'Grow More Food' campaign a success, through the existing administrative machinery. They do not want anything as charity. I think they deserve a little help. Prices of all their requirements have gone very high, higher even as compared with the rise in the prices of agricultural crops. Whether it is the cement, the bricks for construction of wells, or whether it is the repair of ploughs, or the shoeing of bullocks, or the wages of agricultural labour, everything costs them much more than ever before.

' Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should wind up now.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Can I have one minute more, Sir ? If not, I will try to wind up. I was stressing, Sir, that some monetary help must be given to the zamindars, as they have now to spend much more both on the necessities of life as well as their professional requirements. Mere lip sympathy would not do. They require some substantial help. Sir, I want to impress upon the Government the need of giving attention to two matters, if it is really earnest about giving encouragement to the zamindars. The zamindars who to-day make investment for improving agriculture are very likely to suffer capital losses, since in a few years' time the value of the material and machinery they now purchase at a very high cost, will be very much diminished with the general fall in prices. So it is very necessary that they should be given subsidies or grants for sinking wells or installing tube-wells etc. They should in no case be made to bear the whole cost of capital investment that they make with a view to improving the condition of agriculture. If to-day they purchase anything at a cost of two thousand rupees, its value will be reduced to seven or eight hundred rupees in a few years' time. And then they will have to bear some loss owing to depreciation. They will be running another risk too. At present tube-well pumping-sets are being operated with the help of Diesel engines. In a few years' time

when electricity will be available, these will have to be replaced by electric motors. Thus those who instal tube-wells to-day, will have to bear more loss. It is, therefore, essential that the Government should give some substantial help to the zamindars who undertake to effect improvements in the methods of agriculture with a view to increasing production, instead of giving them loans on which it will charge interest like a 'baniya'. The zamindars do not want anything by way of charity. It is their right to expect some help from their Government. So it must approach the Government of India and represent their case, instead of making them a target of joke and tinkering with the problem of producing more food by adding to the number of jeeps on the plea that the officers cannot supervise the work connected with 'Grow More Food' campaign unless they move about in jeeps specially provided for this purpose.

Meh'ta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the subject under discussion to-day is not just the 'Grow More Food' campaign. In reality, it is Demand No. 35 that is being discussed and I shall, therefore, express my views about it as a whole.

The first thing that has attracted my attention in this connection is that while so much money has been provided for tractors and other machinery, no provision has been made for a suitable workshop for carrying out minor and major repairs to them. In the absence of such a workshop, I am afraid the persons who purchase tractors will have to bear losses, so far as the capital expenditure is concerned, and at the same time they will not be able to get much work out of them. Their value will get very much reduced, as a result of fast depreciation, and the zamindars will not be able to pay back the cost to the Government.

Now, Sir, I do not agree with those who are against the use of tractors and application of machinery to agriculture. My views about this matter are entirely different. If it had not been for the tractors, much of the evacuee land would have remained fallow during the last two and a half years. Whether it is the evacuee land or other land, it is a fact, Sir, that the method of cultivation with the help of bullocks is really expensive and uneconomical, as every peasant has to set aside a considerable portion of his land for growing fodder for his cattle, which but for the necessity of feeding them he would have utilized for growing food or money crops. The cattle has become a veritable burden on the poor peasant. Sir, the greatest need of the hour is the mechanization of agriculture and the introduction of the modern methods of farming on co-operative lines, in view of the appalling shortage of food in the country. The Government would do well to impart training in modern methods of farming to the small peasants and give them the necessary facilities to implement them. The condition of agriculture in our country is backward, not because our land is inferior or its productive capacity is limited, but because our yield per acre is small as compared with other countries owing to lack of proper machinery to exploit it. It is very necessary that we should increase the yield from our lands by mechanizing the agricultural industry and by using manures on modern lines. It is an unfortunate fact that farming is still in a primitive stage in this country. So far as the question of availability of water for irrigation is concerned, Nature has been kind in giving so many other resources to our country that it need not remain dependent on rains. It is for us to devise ways and means to harness them for our use and benefit.

Sir, there can be no doubt about it that as compared with other provinces, our province is to-day in an advanced stage, so far as the condition of its agriculture is concerned and I have no misgiving that it can advance further

[Mehla Ranbir Singh.]

in this respect, if proper help and guidance of the Government is forthcoming in this matter. In this connection, I have to make a suggestion. In my opinion all the work connected with the 'Grow More Food' schemes or other schemes of agricultural improvement should be entrusted only to technical men having knowledge and experience of agriculture, preferably the officers of the Agriculture Department. Of course, the Administrative officers such as the Deputy Commissioners would be there to give them the necessary help, but the actual supervision and publicity work in connection with the 'Grow More Food' schemes should be left to those having experience of agriculture work, such as the Inspectors of the Agriculture Department, since they alone would be able to give proper guidance and advice to the zamindars. To-day the question is not so much of guidance as to which crops should be grown but of informing the zamindars about the new methods of farming, use of manure and the qualities of seeds. For example, I would say

that the best agricultural farms were in the West Punjab and
[4 P. M.] there was only one farm in my district in the East Punjab.

This farm of ground-nuts in Tahsil Samrala made considerable improvement by providing a good variety of seeds. There is no considerable scope in the improvement of seeds, but the seed can yield marvellous results if it is sown at some distance. Ammonium sulphite can be utilised with best advantage and such other methods which can yield large-scale results can be ascertained through the Agriculture Department. It would, however, be better if the seeds instead of being distributed through the Agriculture Department are given to zamindars. Sometime back a Food Advisory Committee was formed to accelerate the 'Grow More Food' campaign. But after sometime financial difficulties stood in its way. In such a situation it was considered that if 50 per cent of the amount that was spent on it were given to zamindars who were not well off financially, they would divert it to profitable and productive channels. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things if the grant under this head is sufficiently curtailed and given to zamindars as subsidy. The tractors should be made available to zamindars not on 'no profit, no loss' basis but at a lesser cost. Many refugees have no good bullocks and the land that has been allotted to them is also of such a type that it makes the task of ploughing difficult. There is increased need for such people to avail of the service of tractors as their bullocks cannot prove equal to this hard task. The Government should therefore make available these tractors to these refugee cultivators at a rate much below the actual cost. Merely extensive tours by the Tehsildars will not improve the situation but what is required is to put the land under cultivation and there is a vast area of land which cannot be ploughed without the use of tractors. It is therefore necessary that the Government should supply these tractors at a nominal charge even though the Government may have to incur loss in this connection. This intensive cultivation of land will ensure large scale results to make our country self-sufficient in the matter of food. Sir, I would submit that there are very few canals in the East Punjab and I feel that the tube-well scheme can provide a valuable alternative source of water supply to the agriculturists. But the Government should not instal tube-wells at such places which are likely to be irrigated by canals in the near future, as in that case the installation of tube wells would involve unnecessary expense to the State. Moreover, care should be taken to install tube-wells at such place where they can irrigate large areas of land for the benefit of large number of peoples instead of irrigating tiny plots of a few individuals. If this is not done it will ultimately prove to be a national waste. I would like to make another suggestion that the Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars who have

been appointed to give up an impetus to the 'Grow More Food' campaign should also be entrusted with the work of training Patwaris and Kanungos. It will be better if these Tehsildars are made to work with officers of the Agriculture Department as such officers would prove more useful to accelerate the work connected with the 'Grow More Food' campaign. The Publicity Department which is making educative propaganda among the rural population by means of loud-speakers is not rendering valuable service. It would be desirable if agricultural experts could be appointed whose technical advice would benefit the zamindars a great deal to step up production. Such a step by the Government would, I think, yield quick and startling results. At present officers have been employed in plenty and the burden of their salaries falls on the poor tax-payer. There is hardly any justification for their existence and it would have been better if a few agricultural experts were employed in their places. Beside this, the Government should devote its attention to the opening of modern work-shops for manufacturing spare parts of tractors. It is often observed that when any tractor goes out of order, it cannot be repaired due to non-availability of spare parts and the result is that it remains idle for a long time. These tractors are also in the possession of private individuals and they especially feel great difficulty when such a contingency arises. It takes a fairly long time to get the spare parts from foreign countries and these people have to pay exorbitant prices for the spare parts. It is therefore necessary that the Government should expeditiously arrange for a sufficient number of spare parts for the convenience of tractor holders. In the end, I would request the Government that it should in consonance with the needs of agriculture, take prompt action to give practical shape to my suggestions to achieve tangible results. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar General rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, on, one thing at any rate I wish to congratulate the Government and it is that it has been successful in seeing that no benefit should accrue to the poor kisan through the Budget which has been presented to the House. Not to talk of other departments, even money which is to be spent on a department that has a direct bearing on them, namely the Grow More Food Department, will not be of any avail to them. All the money that has been earmarked for this purpose will be spent in the form of salaries and allowances of the officers and their staff. Even the previous policy of the Government by virtue of which a kisan was to get half the amount will be spent on a tube well and Rs. 875 by way of subsidy for every well installed has been given up. There is not even the slightest hint in this long volume of the Budget which goes to show that this Government has the interests of the kisan at heart. The sum of rupees one crore and fifteen lakhs is being wasted on things nonsensical. I am completely at one with my hon. Friend Sardar Sawaran Singh when he says that rupees twelve lakhs are being altogether wasted. In this connection I may quote an extract from the Memorandum prepared by the Finance Secretary to the Government. He says :

The figures above on the whole indicate steady progress satisfactory so far as the raising of additional revenue is concerned, though it would have been better to have control over the expenditure.

This extract clearly shows that there has been want of control in expending the revenues but no stone has been left unturned in raising them. And then why should anybody bother about waste when in order to cover the deficit in the Budget it is easy to burden the poor zamindar with a load of sixty lakhs of rupees? The sum of rupees twelve lakhs is being utterly wasted and the pity is that it is not possible to know as to how it will be spent.

[Ch. Sher Singh.]

Strange appear to be the ways of this Government. Every paper passes through so many stages that it is difficult to find out as to who is responsible for the wrong done. Every one can justify his action and yet the work is unnecessarily delayed and wrong done. It appears as if Government can do no wrong. There would be nothing wrong according to its notions if a letter sent from Simla to Delhi was required to be stamped at every station in the way and reached its destination after a hundred days of its posting. As a matter of fact this is the principle that is being observed in every Government office. An officer would start noting with regard to even trivial matters on a sheet of paper and would continue till it develops into a regular file. A job that should be done in two minutes takes two years for its performance. Such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated for long and it is time that we bid good bye to the red tape in order to effect some economy so that the poor kisan is saved from the burden of additional taxation.

Sir, a pamphlet has been put into our hands which relates to Punjab planning. I have no doubt the schemes contained in it will remain only on paper. None is likely to be put through properly. Out of the twenty six miles only a length of six miles of canal had been lined and for the remaining work there were no funds. The lining of a length of six miles will undoubtedly give more water to Bhawani town and it shall serve the purpose of the Government as no benefit would go to the rural areas.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member relevant ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** He is not. I would ask the hon. Member not to be irrelevant. He should know that it is not the pamphlet but Demand No. 35 which is under discussion.

✓ **Chaudhri Sher Singh :** Sir, I am referring to improvement of agriculture.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should confine himself to the items under the demand like Grow More Food etc.

Sardar Sawarn Singh : But some expenditure has been incurred on the pamphlet also.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : Sir, what I wish to bring out is this that the Government has taken good care to see that in no case should the benefit go to the cultivator. Not only that. In the guise of Grow More Food campaign, purchase of tractor and sinking of wells etc It has evolved certain schemes by virtue of which the cultivator is being asked to enter the trap of indebtedness from which he had managed a release with great difficulty. To me it seems that the Government wishes to give loans to the zamindars so that they never come to their own. There is surely something sinister in the schemes for loans. Sir, here I also wish to say something about the problem of the tenants and the landlords. If we are really after growing more food we shall have to solve this problem and also immediately.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is irrelevant again.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : I am quite relevant, Sir.

✓ **Mr. Speaker ;** No. The various items under the demand are sinking of wells, land reclamation, mechanical cultivation, plying of Jeeps etc.

Sardar Swaran Singh : And it is likely to grow more and more.
(Laughter.)

Chaudhri Sher Singh : In my opinion there is no irrelevancy in my arguments.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Only in your opinion.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is anything irrelevant in the argument which I am going to advance.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** But I have to point out whenever the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I want your ruling whether an hon. Member who has not read the Budget has a right to speak on it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is no point of order.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : It is not irrelevant because.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot challenge my ruling. I hold that the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : In this Budget there is a provision for the purchase of tractors. This affects the relationship between the landlords and the tenants. By purchasing tractors we would throw out of job a large number of agricultural tenants. I beg to submit, Sir, that we should not introduce machinery in agriculture without a definite plan. For increasing production of food in the country we should help the tenants. We should not pay heed to the demands of a small number of big land-lords who wish to evict tenants. This act on their part would reduce the production of food-grains. One of the hon. Members said that those who advocated the cause of agriculturists were Congress-men only in name. They were in reality Unionists. I wish to point out that those who speak for the land-lords have no right to remain in the Congress.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : The hon. Member is again not relevant.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. It is for me to judge whether or not the hon. Member is relevant.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out only one thing more. If we wish to increase the production of food, we should give maximum help to the tenants. Our object cannot be achieved by the mere provision of one crore and fifteen lakhs in the Budget or by preparing a few schemes. We should not expect any improvement in the economic condition of the State, so long as the burden of taxation on the peasants is very high. Unless the tiller of the soil feels contented, we cannot expect larger produce. The Government has levied a fresh tax amounting to sixty lakhs of rupees on the poor kisans.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Member's time is over.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, an hon. Member remarked that those who had not studied the Budget had no right to speak on it, I have not read the whole of the Budget but I have examined it to know about the jeep cars which are found running about in the villages. I learn that these have been provided to the officials of the Agriculture Department for encouraging 'Grow More Food' campaign. I have, however, noticed that since the Government started this work, the production of food has decreased. This is due to the fact that the ways of God are mysterious and one cannot interfere with them. When our Government began to interfere, God became angry and thrice, the quantity of crops which the Government could increase was damaged by elements of nature. The Government has taken an unwise decision in starting the destruction of monkeys. When the Governor paid a visit to Rohtak sometime back, a number of monkeys were killed in his presence. A few monkeys were thrown into water in order to be drowned. They shivered for about half an hour before being drowned and wondered how the Governor whose name Trivedi means one who has read three vedas (*laughter*) agreed to their destruction in that manner. After that a meeting convened by these officials who are seen moving about in jeep-cars, was held. I also attended that meeting to hear what the Government had to say for growing of more food and also to find out if really those persons attended it, who were the producers of food. I noticed that only those persons were present at that meeting who are usually seen around the courts and have nothing to do with then cultivation of land. They were asked to grow more food but I wondered if those persons had anything to do with that work. After that I asked for a list of those persons who had been given grants for digging wells. I found that these had been given mostly to those persons who attended that meeting but could in no manner help in increasing production of food. In my own village a person owning only one and a half bighas of land was given this money. How could that person help in growing more food? I have noticed that only those persons are given these grants, who have some influence with the Government. One thing which the officers of the Agriculture Department have done is the publication of illustrated pamphlets. Formerly they used to do office work but now they have learnt the art of lecturing to people. The Tehsildar of my village asked people to grow more food. They wondered if there was any necessity of telling them to do so. Every agriculturist wants to till every inch of his land. He would rather like to grow on more land than he actually owns. If there was any necessity of supplying jeep-cars, these should have been provided to four M. L. A's belonging to Hariana, so that they could move about from place to place and ask people to grow more food. What will these officers do if their jeep-cars get punctured?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Member an engineer?

Chaudhri Badlu Ram : A Jat Member is as much an engineer as Pandit ji is an expert in agitating people. An agriculturist's son learns agriculture from his very childhood and a bania's son learns the use of weighing balance. A leader's son learns to put one man against the other.

Secondly the Government has made a mention of tractors in the Budget. I would like to submit that the Government, with its own tractors, should cultivate the land of people so that the ignorant people may not suffer any loss. The Government should also cut down its expenditure on motor cars and jeeps. It should also do something to protect crops from cold and frost by applying some electrical device just as heating arrangements are made in the houses of the hon. Ministers. Steps for this purpose should also be

taken besides the killing of monkeys. If the Government really wants to increase food production it should go to the villages and approach the agriculturists themselves. At present, they think that the Government is against them and it wants to put the greatest burden on them. What they want is canal water. They cannot irrigate more than one or two bighas of land from a well with the help of bullocks. The supply of canal water has also been cut down. During the period of ministership of Chaudhri-Lehri Singh, the people of our Illaqa got hopes for a new canal. But unfortunately that could not be done because Chaudhri Sahib could not remain Minister for very long.

The officials of the Government go to villages and explain to the agriculturists the advantages of storing manure in pits. But I may submit that people are now well aware of these things. The Government need not waste money on such propaganda. On the other hand, it should try to encourage the agriculturists by offering prizes for good bullocks and such other things. But it appears that the Government is bent on doing wrong things. It supplies seed grains to the agriculturists at the price of about Rs. 17/- a maund while the same sells at Rs. 14/- in the villages, and then the seed supplied is also of inferior quality. The success of the Grow More Food campaign can very well be imagined from this one fact.

Then I want to submit that the reports supplied to the Government are usually against the interests of the agriculturists.

Mr. Speaker ; Only two minutes more.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram : Well, Sir, if you do not want that there should be more food, I would resume my seat.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has adequately pointed out that what is required is not being done. I am glad that every Member comes to know real facts after leaving the ministerial benches. The true facts then begin to dawn upon them. It is due to the fact that they regain contact with the masses while previously they held aloof from them. During this short time at my disposal, I would like to point out only one thing. In the past, the functions of the Government were considered to be those of a Police State only. In other words, it saw that people did not quarrel or do anything against each other. But now this conception has undergone a change. The idea of a Police State has been replaced by that of a Welfare State. In these changed circumstances no campaign of Government can succeed without the co-operation of the people. In order to achieve success in the Grow More Food campaign, the co-operation of people with the officials is essential. But unfortunately this co-operation is lacking. That is why many movements started by the Government end in failure. For instance, it started a movement against corruption. Anti-corruption weeks were celebrated and processions taken out. Similarly there was another movement for growing more trees. All these movements lacked public touch ; that is why they ended in smoke. I can say this on the basis of my experience of such matters in my own district. I have fears that the Grow More Food campaign won't succeed in this way. The results will turn out to be zero. As far as our Prime Minister is concerned he has declared that in the near future India will stop importing foodgrain from other countries. But we cannot achieve what we desire until we have the co-operation of the people. In matters like the Grow More Food campaign such co-operation is very essential. But what do we find ? I can tell the hon. Members about the conditions prevailing in my district. When Grow More Food campaign was started we expected that public representatives will be taken into confidence

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and their opinions taken into consideration. When orders for constituting Grow More Food Committees in the districts were sent, we were told that the co-operation of the members of Congress organisation was most essential. I admit there might be some shortcomings in the Congressmen but as an organisation it supplies the main support to the present Government. There may be some complaints against individuals here and there but the prestige of the Congress organisation and that of the present Government are interlinked. In view of this, the co-operation of the Congress organisation was the first requisite for the success of the Grow More Food campaign. It should have been obtained without any hesitation. In compliance with some hint from the Government the then officiating Deputy Commissioner of my district sent for me. It might be that I was sent for in my capacity of an M. L. A. or the President of the District Congress Committee or both. Anyhow, I was asked to give some names for the Committee. In order that we might prove to be of real help to the Government, I wanted to know the total number of such members, the nature of work and the functions they were expected to perform. I was told that the lists had been sent for from the Tehsildars and that I would get the required information on the receipt of such lists. When these lists were actually received, about seventy to eighty names constituted the District Food Committee. I was surprised to read those names. These were not the names of national-minded and public spirited persons but of those persons who had always stood in the way of our struggle for independence. Many of these persons were of the older type, who had always been the henchmen of the British regime. When I asked the authorities their reply was that about seventy five names had been selected on the recommendation of the Tehsildar. I was asked to give the names of two or three Congressmen of my choice. This is the co-operation which they expect from the Congress Organisation. I admit that the Government is not for the Congress party alone but it is for the benefit of the people at large. But still it is unfortunate that in such important spheres of activity patriotic and national-minded persons should be represented only by five per cent. I must also warn the Government that the administration can be successful only when the real supporters of the Government are fully taken into confidence. But unfortunately our present Government is neglecting its real supporters and is encouraging those persons who, in fact, ridicule its schemes and activities behind its back. Government should not, as a matter of fact, rely upon persons who have never been loyal to the people. If such persons are taken on the committees we cannot call it co-operation of the people. These persons who pretend themselves to be the supporters of the Government have no real concern for the masses nor for this Government. They laugh at all the schemes which we make for the benefit of the people and they consider them as useless. I have studied the inner feelings and thoughts of the persons in service and the public upon whom our Government rely so much. My submission is that such activities can be successful only if our selection of supporters is good. We should select those persons who work with a spirit of service and patriotism. The Government should have such workers who have their hearts in their work. But at present what do we find? Only those persons who do not work but believe in self aggrandisement are found around the officers. The spirit which is required for 'Grow More Food' is non-existent. The persons whom our officers keep near them lack this spirit. I dare say that the results will be unsatisfactory. I drew the attention of the authorities towards this many months ago. If the cooperation of the public is not obtained, no good result will come out of this or that campaign. If the representatives of the

public and those people who work with a spirit of service and patriotism are not associated with this work the success of the efforts made by the Government cannot be ensured. So far all efforts at increasing production of foodgrains have fallen flat. Whatever little increase we notice in this production is on account of Chaudhri Lahri Singh who as Minister of irrigation increased the supply of canal water. Otherwise the money that is being spent by Government on various other schemes is simply wasted. All publicity and lectures arranged now and then are in fact meaningless. I have pointedly asked the hon. Ministers what increase they find in the production of food-grains by means other than those of an increase in the supply of canal water. It is only on account of this increased supply of canal water and good rainfall on two occasions that we notice some increase in production. As a matter of fact I am of the opinion that our province is not in reality a deficit province, If there is any shortage it can be made up if we try to be a bit more careful in this respect. What actually happens is that sometimes the officers try to show that the state of affairs is bad when actually it is not so. After sometime they come out and say, "look here we have improved the conditions and now the situation is well in hand". In the matter of food-grains also the conditions were not so bad as they were depicted. The improvement that has been claimed by the officers is, in fact, due to the supply of canal water and good rainfall. On the other hand our Government thought it proper to spend a sum of about one and a half crores on 'Grow More Food' schemes, About one third of this huge sum has been spent on the buying of tractors and on petrol etc. Another one third of the amount is spent on salaries and allowances etc. of those who are engaged in the work of 'Grow More Food' campaign. The remaining one-third has been called 'Golmol' by Sardar Swaran Singh. We are not in the know of where this amount would be spent. I may point out that they are not sure about their own estimates. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the following :—

Reclamation of waste land by heavy tractors is to be done by the Central Tractors Organisation of the Government of India as in the previous years. It is, however, not known at this stage as to how many tractors will be allotted for this work to this province in 1950-51 and how much area will be reclaimed. This scheme has therefore been based on the assumption that 12 thousand acres of waste land will be reclaimed in that year (1950-51) as has been done in the year 1949-50.

It will be seen that Government are never sure of the exact position. They do not know how many tractors they are going to receive from the Central Tractors organisation. Then all their estimates are invariably based on past calculations. They are not aware of the area of land that will be reclaimed. I think my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh unnecessarily blamed the Government for demanding a huge sum without informing the House the manner of the utilisation of that money. The Government themselves admit that they do not know in what way it will be expended. I may tell the Government if they are really keen about the success of the 'Grow More Food' campaign, that they should render financial assistance to the tiller of the soil directly in a proper manner. Mere purchase of jeeps and rovers will not mend matters. I am of the opinion that unless the people are enthused over the "Grow-More-Food" scheme and true patriotic spirit is instilled in them, which a free people should have for their motherland, resounding success is not going to attend their efforts in this direction. The huge expenditure incurred on the 'Grow-More-Food' scheme will not yield any tangible results unless Government take effective steps to see that the zamindars actually receive the help intended for them. In this connection I want to draw

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the attention of the Government to another important matter. Under the pretext of 'Grow-More-Food' scheme certain irregularities are committed by the zamindars, which ultimately prove harmful to the poor people. For instance in every village there is shamlat land which is utilised by all for grazing their cattle. But certain zamindars encroach upon these vacant lands and Government should see that such encroachments are stopped. Then, Sir, Government embarked upon an ambitious scheme of killing monkeys which has been much criticised by the orthodox section of the community but that too is now abandoned unaccomplished, Government must show consideration to the susceptibility of the people. I may tell the Government that the Grow More Food campaign will not prove a success unless they get the fullest co-operation of the public, the Congress organisation and the representatives of the people. I feel that Government should take direct responsibility upon itself in this matter. It should not leave it to the district officers whose mentality has not yet undergone a change with the dawn of freedom. I would request the hon. Minister at the risk of repetition that Government should make an endeavour to create patriotic feelings in the people just as the peoples of Japan, Russia etc. are permeated with. Unless it creates that atmosphere, I am sure its best efforts in regard to the Grow More Food scheme are not likely to be crowned with success.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with my speech I must congratulate the hon. Minister for Development on taking steps to bring about the consolidation of holdings of land in connection with the 'Grow More Food' campaign.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is irrelevant. Grow More Food campaign comes under Irrigation and has no connection with the consolidation of holdings of land.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I submit, Sir, that Grow More Food scheme is connected with many a department. On the one hand it bears close relation to the Irrigation Department and on the other it has connection with Agriculture Department and consolidation of holdings of land. Not only this but the opening of canals is also connected with Grow More Food scheme. I submit, Sir, that in the State of Punjab the lands have been fragmented and further subdivided to such an extent that unless consolidation of holdings is brought about early the 'Grow More Food' scheme is not going to receive any fillip.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : I would request the hon. Member to restrict his discussion to Demand No. 35.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I was just coming to that. Whatever I have said was merely an introduction. (*Laughter*). Well, Sir, I may point out at the every outset that the brain of the Government has been entirely paralysed. (*Renewed laughter*). This can be seen from the fact that it fails to realise or assess the poverty of the tiller of the soil. Crores of rupees are being spent by the Government of India and proportionately by the Punjab Government on the import of wheat from America and Australia and its storage in this country to meet the deficit in food grains. Previously under the scheme a grant of Rs. 850 was made to a zamindar for sinking wells in his land for purposes of irrigation and thus helping 'Grow More Food' campaign. But unfortunately that grant has now been stopped. I have no desire to raise any urban-rural question in the matter of grant of

amenities. But I cannot help saying that mere spending of lakhs of rupees in the name of 'Grow More Food' scheme will not prove of any avail unless the supply of water for irrigating lands is increased. Since under the present circumstances it is difficult to dig new canals, the only way and an easier way to meet the difficulty is the sinking of percolation wells by the zamindars. With the stoppage of the grant the incentive with the zamindar has been damped. It is a thousand pities that it has been stopped with one stroke of the pen of the Finance Minister, little knowing what hardship it will mean to the poor zamindars.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Demand No. 35 relates to Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research. But my hon. Friend has all the time been referring to irrigation matters. Is he relevant to the motion under consideration ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No doubt the cut motion has been moved to discuss the Grow-More-Food-Policy of the Government. The points being referred to by the hon. Member Chaudhri Lahri Singh though relating to the Grow-More Food Policy, strictly speaking, do not come under the Demand which is under consideration. I would, therefore, ask him to confine himself to the Demand before the House.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the hon. Member is talking of irrigation. How does it come under the discussion of the Demand which has been moved by the hon. Minister for Development. I would read the Demand :

That a sum not exceeding Rs 54,01,980 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-1951 in respect of-Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes, Chaudhri Sahib was talking about irrigation but I think he meant irrigation by tube.wells.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, there may not be certain things laid down under the Demand but those may be closely related to the policy of Grow More Food. I, therefore, ask for your ruling whether those things can be mentioned or not.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** So many things can be made relevant to the point under discussion. For example, the pamphlet that was distributed to the hon. Members this morning has nothing to do with the Demand but hon. Members are quoting from it. While speaking, the hon. Members can wander away to a certain extent but not too far. They must keep in mind that the Demand under consideration is No. 35. The main items under this Demand are :

1. Land Reclamation and Mechanical Cultivation.
2. Sinking of Tube Wells,
3. Purchase of Jeeps.

Strictly speaking hon. Members should confine their discussion to those three items but I am permitting them to mention other points also which are helpful in the scheme of 'Grow More Food'.

Chaundhri Lahri Singh : On page 20 of the Budget Memorandum my hon. Friends will find various items of expenditure under the 'Grow More Food' schemes during the year 1949-50, and 1950-51. I really fail to under-

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stand the reasons why objections are being raised against item No. 20 which relates to the sinking of surface percolation wells. There are no two opinions on this matter that sinking of such wells is the pressing need of the hour. The sinking of more and more wells, will I am sure, help us immensely to increase our food production. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends in general and the hon. Minister in charge in particular that the sinking of more and more wells would be instrumental in making the 'Grow More Food' campaign a success. The owners of the tiny plots of land have sunk tube wells and they have experienced that one tube well is sufficient for irrigating 7 or 8 acres of land for growing wheat. So far as the Surface Percolation Wells are concerned it is explained on page 10 of the pamphlet :-

Well sinking is undoubtedly the most feasible and satisfactory method of increasing the irrigated area where canal irrigation is not possible or cannot be undertaken. Another advantage of a surface well is that it can be constructed from resources available within the country and it suits the economy of the subsistence farm.

Last year the Zamindars were very happy to learn that Government had sanctioned amounts in the form of grants for sinking surface percolation wells. It seems that now it is the intention of the Government to grant loans to zamindars for sinking such wells. If our Government takes such a step, I am afraid, the Grow More Food campaign will not prove a success.

Further I would like to say a few words about the manufacture of compost manure. I am really constrained to remark that there is no effective control on the part of the Government so far as the manufacture of compost manure is concerned. However instructions have been issued to various municipal committies for manufacture of compost manure. There is no scheme for conserving and collecting human excreta and urine. It is said that pits would be dug for this purpose. Some of my hon. Friends who belong to rural areas know it full well that zamindars are used to digging pits for conserving cow dung and other farm waste.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is not relevant.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I am perfectly relevant, Sir. All these points are referred to in the 'Grow More Food' scheme.

So far as the manufacture of compost is concerned, I would like to point out that there is no such scheme for utilizing human excreta and urine in the rural areas for increasing the fertility of the soil. It is said that manure and other fertilizers would be imported into our State from abroad. Perhaps they do not know, as is clear from the pamphlet, that in China and Japan where the soil and the climatic conditions are not very different from that of our country, the farmers conserve human excreta and urine and this process helps them to get the maximum out of their tiny plots of land. But our Government, instead of encouraging zamindars to employ these economical methods for increasing the fertility of the soil, is anxiously waiting for the machinery at a very high cost from America. This machinery from America and from other foreign countries will not alone solve our problem. We will have to arrange for Diesel oil and petrol to feed the engines. They will not devise any ways and means for conserving the human excreta and urine which can easily be manured into compost without putting in any labour and without any extra expenditure. Perhaps they have some different programmes in their minds which may only be imaginary and may not ultimately result in any good. Our Government does not want to pay any

attention towards these petty but very useful things. They will only think in terms of tractors and appointment of officers or such allied but highly expensive things. In this connection I would like to cite an instance. I live near the Jat College in New Colony at Rohtak. There is an agricultural farm in the neighbourhood of this college. The human excreta and urine of thousands of students which could have been utilized in the agricultural farm is being wasted. The officials of the Agriculture Department who do not take any pains to devise ways and means for increasing the fertility of the soil with least expenditure, waste their time and public money on tours and other unnecessary programmes. This department has employed a few M.A's whose job it is to write some articles in good English and publish them in the form of pamphlets. I have no hesitation in saying that this department is deceiving the Central Government by drawing a wrong picture of its so-called all-out efforts to increase the agricultural wealth of the State. I am really constrained to remark that whenever the attention of the Government is drawn to improving the lot of the poor zamindars and whenever the policy of the Government towards the rural areas is criticized on the floor of the House, it is said that we are responsible for raising the urban-rural controversy. This is not all. Statements after statements are being issued in the "Tribune" opposing the raising of such urban-rural controversial issues. If we want to increase our food production then we should lay much stress on the manufacture of compost manure. Zamindars should be made to understand how and where to utilize the green manure. It is really no use spending huge amounts on foreign machinery and on high salaries of the officials of this department. I have not been able to understand as to how machinery can be useful to a zamindar owning a tiny plot of 4 or 5 acres of land. Such arguments of the Government in support of importing foreign machinery seem to be fantastic and imaginary. If such be the state of affairs, I really fail to understand as to how the schemes of the Government in general and the Agricultural Department in particular can be embarked upon by them successfully.

There is one thing more to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is that the officials of the department do not give any publicity to their tour programmes. My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has in the course of his speech pointed out that technical advice is not available to the zamindars and that no publicity is given to the tours of the Deputy Commissioner and the Agricultural Assistants. During my three months' stay at Rohtak I was not informed about the tour programme of the Director of Agriculture and other officials of the department. I am not informed about the tour programme of the Director of Agriculture. I do not know whether he has toured my district. In this connection I have no hesitation in saying this that the copies of programmes of the Deputy Commissioner in connection with the 'Grow More Food' campaign are not made available to M.L.A's. Perhaps the Deputy Commissioners think that there is no necessity to inform the simple-dressed M.L.A's about their tour programmes, who previously used to bow before them. If the Government really wants its efforts in this direction to be crowned with success, it should direct its officers-in-charge of 'Grow More Food' schemes to consult the zamindar M.L.A's and other enlightened zamindars from time to time by calling conferences. Without their advice, the Government cannot succeed in its mission.

It has been proudly stated that the Government has succeeded in increasing the produce of rice to the extent of 38 thousand tons and has thus wiped out the deficit, so far as this article of food is concerned. I submit, Sir, the credit for this achievement should not have been claimed

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by the present Ministry. But for the pains and labour that I underwent along with the Chief Engineer in moving from village to village all the day long for a considerable period in order to supervise the work of construction of temporary outlets to be taken out of Western Jumna Canal and Upper Bari Doab with a view to supplying additional water to the zamindars for rice crops, there would have been no increase in the production of rice worth the name, despite all the 'Grow More Food' schemes of this Government. The scheme had been lying pending for the last three years, when I took charge of the Department and called for the explanation of the officers for keeping it in cold storage for such a long time and not giving it their personal attention. So, Sir, we can help and give valuable guidance to the Government in its efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food. But the pity is that we are not given any information even about the tour programme of the high officers such as the Financial Commissioners or the officers of the Agriculture Department.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can speak for one minute, more.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Then, Sir, in the Budget Estimates for this department I find an item pertaining to iron and steel. I wonder, Sir, where this quota of iron goes. In the company of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, I visited many districts. We were surprised to hear complaints in every village about the non-availability of iron even for replacement of blades of simple agricultural implements such as spades and hoes, especially when we knew that large quotas were given to the urban people for the manufacture of trunks, boxes and other goods. Why does not the Government sell away its jeeps and machines, when it cannot supply iron even for the repair of agricultural implements? When it does not give attention to even such small matters, how can we expect anything great or grand of it?

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the problem of growing more food that is under discussion to-day, is a question of life and death for our country, and it is therefore incumbent on us that we should take it in that spirit of seriousness and earnestness which it rightly deserves. The Government of India has made a firm resolve not to spend anything on the import of foodgrains after 1951 and to see that the country achieves self-sufficiency in food by that time. It was certainly not wise on their part to spend Rs. one and a half crores during the last two years on the import of foodgrains. Still it is a matter for gratification that the final decision in the matter has now been taken, upon which there is no going back. Opinion in the country is somewhat divided about our present position in the matter of food production. There is a set of people who are of the view that we are already producing sufficient food for our requirements and that the so-called shortage is due to defective distribution. There is certainly something to be said in favour of this opinion. I can say from personal knowledge that the system of distribution is unsatisfactory in our own province. To give a concrete instance, the district of Hoshiarpur is deficit in maize where its price always ranges from Rs. twelve to thirteen, while in District Jullundur the rate of maize remains in the neighbourhood of Rs. 8-8-0 but in spite of the fact that there is an acute shortage in Hoshiarpur, there is an embargo on its import from Jullundur which is hardly at a distance of twenty miles. Similar is the case with Kangra, where the maize sells at Rs. 20 per maund and the poor people yearn for it but import from surplus districts is forbidden. Sir, is it not a

fact that if these restrictions were removed, maize would be easily available at all places at Rs. 9 to 10 per maund? So the charge that distribution is not satisfactory, is not without foundation. But I feel the other view is more correct and based on facts and that there is a real shortage of food-grains and that every effort must be made to increase production. It is a matter for pleasure that our Government is alive to the urgency of this problem and has earmarked a sum of Rs. 54 lakhs for this purpose. In this connection, Sir, I would urge the Government to take early steps to reclaim twenty five lakh acres of barren land (banjar-i-kadim) which has been lying untilled for a very long time. All the efforts of our Government for the destruction of wild animals, jackals and monkeys, will not yield as good results as the reclamation of these tracts of land. In fact, Sir, I consider the reclamation of this land more important than all other minor schemes. Even though the Agriculture Department has got measures enacted by this House for the reclamation of this land, nothing practical has been done in the matter so far. If this land is reclaimed, it will help in the solution of two problems, one of food shortage and the other of providing land to the landless tenants whose cause is daily pleaded with such earnestness by friends like Sardar Bachan Singh and Thakur Dalip Singh. If the Government acquires all this land and gives it to landless tenants, I am sure, in a few years' time these barren tracts would begin to yield rich harvests.

Now a few words about the good work done by the Agriculture Department in improving the condition of agriculture in this province. About 25 lakh acres of fallow land have been brought under cultivation with the help of tractors and for this thanks are due to this Department. With the help of tractors, by two or three operations, such land has been made cultivable as would otherwise have not become fit for cultivation even by ten operations. This land which has been lying untilled for the last forty or fifty years is to-day yielding good harvests. And I am sure the use of tractors on land of good type, would result in increasing the yield per acre considerably. But the regret is that whereas this Department ought to have five hundred to seven hundred tractors, at present it has only 139 tractors. People are very anxious to use tractors to bring barren land under cultivation. It is therefore very desirable that the department should be in a position to lend many more tractors to them for reclamation work. In Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts, people implore the department to give them tractors but, alas, their number is all too limited, and only one tractor is working there. We want that the department should be able to allocate ten tractors to each district, so that production may be increased to the maximum extent possible. Sir, people who attach little importance to the tractor scheme and raise objections against it are, I would say, totally indifferent to the interest of zamindars. Even when efforts are made by the Government for a good cause it is vitiated by personal interests.

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ਰੋਂਦੀ ਯਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਲੈ ਨਾਂ ਭਰਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ।

It means that round the inner core of truth, there is so much coverage of exaggeration or false statements to make it impossible for anyone to get at the bottom of things. The efforts of such people to show lack of appreciation of this scheme is only to win the sympathy of tenant class. It is a conscious effort on their part to conceal effectively the benefits of this scheme under the cloak of tenants' weal and to propagate that the tenant's interests

would be jeopardised. But the Government should not take any notice of such irresponsible criticism and should spare ample funds for importing more tractors to solve the problem of production in the State. The tractors are badly needed by zamindars and these should be given to them for cultivation purposes. Agriculturists have now realized the benefits of mechanised farming and feel that the scheme that has been launched by the Government is really commendable. There is another problem that confronts the State and that is of providing irrigation facilities to the agriculturists. We cannot expect any production from the reclaimed land unless we adopt some measures for irrigating this area of land. It is a matter for gratification to know that the Agriculture Department has purchased land worth 25 or 30 lakhs of rupees and have installed tube-wells for providing water to this land. I think that a provision of 20 lakhs was made in the Budget of last year for the purpose of sinking wells but may I ask how many wells were sunk? Sometime back I got a well sunk in my village but it does not give adequate and continual supply of water. The difficulty is that the boring apparatus is not available at Jullundur. The Government should try to sink about 200 wells in every district every month so that the amount ear-marked for this purpose may be utilised. The Government should also acquire land in villages for sinking of wells so that these wells may be a source of supply of water to the land in villages. If this is done, it will certainly be a step in the right direction to step up production. I wonder that while the Government have set apart Rs. 1,32,000 for conveyance in jeeps, it has made no provision in the Budget for manure. The Government has committed a mistake in not making provision in this behalf though it was made last year. The Government should have also provided ample funds for 'green manure' as the average outturn can be increased three times by the utilization of green manure. Similarly no provision has been made for seeds as well though the sum of Rs. 9 lakhs was provided in the last year's Budget. The Government should not be stingy in the allocation of funds for agricultural development. The decision of the Government to withhold necessary finance for seeds and green manure shows that it is not anxious to accelerate the 'Grow More Food' campaign in the State. I would inform the Government that the officers' visits to villages in Government jeeps would not be of any real advantage. The Deputy Commissioner of each district should consolidate the fragmented holdings and after procuring good quality of seeds from the Cooperative Department should start the campaign of 'Grow More Food' in right earnest. A few years ago people did not favour the idea of consolidation of land holdings. But now a change has come and they have begun to realize that agriculture cannot become efficient and paying with such fragmented holdings. They now feel that slices of land here and there cannot be economically cultivated. It would decidedly be a great achievement if the Government were able to construct an ideal village functioning properly under modern conditions. There has been a mushroom growth of new offices and departments and the Government is lavishly spending vast sums of public money on it. This is hardly justifiable. The Government should have effective control over the expenditure and should seriously examine how administrative waste can be reduced and see that the money is expended on productive channels. I would make a suggestion that the Government should allow the Agriculture Department to act independently in the matter of agricultural development of the State. It is often observed that the schemes are worked out by the department and sent to the Government for approval where it takes a very long time to scrutinise such schemes. Sometimes it so happens that these schemes are never put up before the Minister for one reason or the other. Such factors are mainly responsible for the excessive delay in putting the schemes into execution. It is, therefore, desirable that this department

[Sardar Ajit Singh]

should like many other departments be made independent.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, is there any department which is independent ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, my hon. Friend perhaps does not know that such offices whose heads are the Administrative Secretaries to Government are first class offices and are in a way independent. On the other hand those departments whose heads are not Secretaries to Government are second class departments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please resume your speech.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I would say that if all the schemes that are worked out by the Agriculture Department from time to time are put into execution, the Punjab will before long be again the granary of India.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram (Hissar North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I must thank the Government for providing 175 lakhs for the 'Grow More Food'. By doing so, it has evinced great interest for the betterment of the peasants. Some of my hon. Friends have delivered their speeches but I find that with the exception of one or two Members, no one has tried to appreciate the difficulties of the agriculturists. They cannot imagine what handicaps these people have to face. During the course of their speeches, some of the hon. Members have again and again directed their criticism on the expenditure incurred in connection with the officers' visits to villages in Government jeeps. On the one hand it is said that the zamindars who are often illiterate and simple folk are badly exploited in the cities whenever they go there. On the other hand it is said that there is no publicity in the villages. Sometimes it is said that the number of officers should not be large and now a plea is being put forward that tours in jeeps is wasteful expenditure. Such an irresponsible criticism cannot carry any weight with the Government. I would submit, Sir, that jeep service is very essential in collecting authoritative information from the zamindars with regard to their difficulties and other handicaps which may impede the progress of 'Grow More Food' campaign. This transport has been provided in order to obtain quicker solution of the practical difficulties of the peasant class. Time is vital in everything. If a person were to go on foot to the remote villages it will certainly be a very slow process to ascertain their difficulties. The Government cannot deal adequately with the task of 'Grow More Food' unless such essential measures are adopted. Money is being spent on a worthy object and the officers are doing good work in this connection. My hon. Friends who are obsessed with the idea that these officers who go on tour in jeeps are making propaganda against the tenant class and are thus impeding the progress of 'Grow More Food' campaign are sadly mistaken.

Sir, some of my hon. Friends have laid great emphasis on the use of tractors as they think that we should also emulate the example of foreign countries. I do not agree with them. In my opinion our salvation lies only in the plough and in place of tractors we should attempt to get machinery for purposes other than agriculture. Sir, to me it appears as if some hon. Members have offered opposition to the Government merely for the sake of opposition. They have objected to the use of jeeps. Anyhow I have failed to follow the line of their argument. I ask them, should not somebody go about from village to village to enquire into facts relating to the tube well scheme and the Garden Colony scheme for which twenty thousand acres have been set aside and on which lakhs

[Chaudhri Sahib Ram]

of rupees are being spent ? And then what is more, will not the use of jeeps be conducive to prevention of smuggling food grains ? In these circumstances I would request my hon. Friends to refrain from destructive criticism.

The next point I wish to deal with is growing of more food. It is no revelation when I say that every zamindar knows everything about it and wishes to cooperate with the Government wholeheartedly in this matter. If they grow more, food will of course become cheap but at present I would suggest that in order to encourage them the zamindars should be given reasonable rates for their produce.

The question of manure has been the subject of debate and has been discussed at some length. It has been suggested by some hon. Members that supply of chemical manure is a necessity. I may inform them that the question of having recourse to this variety of manure does not arise when huge quantities of cattle refuse are with us to answer our purpose. In these circumstances, Sir, I request my hon. Friends that they should come forth with constructive proposals if they have any and not indulge in uncalled for criticism.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that not only the Chief Minister and his colleagues but all of us should make an all-out effort to grow as much food as is needed for us. We can stop import of food from abroad worth rupees one hundred and sixty crores by 1951 only if we achieve success in this direction. I may here say that if the zamindar of Punjab takes it into his head to solve this problem he can easily do it as he is not inferior to any cultivator in the world. According to Dr. Walker's report he has a level of efficiency that is possessed by the English farmer. But what is wanted is that Government should help him and remove his difficulties. If in 1940-41 England could produce 50 per cent more of food I do not see any reason why our cultivators should not be able to put in only 10 per cent more if they are properly encouraged to do so. In England if a kisan broke one acre of land he got two pounds for it but not a penny would be paid here in this country for such work. It is something most disconcerting. Expenditure is being incurred on unnecessary things and nothing is being given to those who are producers of our wealth. If we inspire confidence in the zamindar and make him feel that we have some soft corner for him he would perspire for us with pleasure. His most essential requirement is water and in a majority of cases it can be provided by tube wells and percolation wells. Last year subsidies were given to zamindars for tube wells and percolation wells but this year they are not to get anything. I wonder whether such a step will be conducive to growing more food. The growers are faced with many other difficulties. They are being subjected to a 50 per cent increase in water rate. Such a measure is bound to prove disastrous for our food drive as it will discourage them from growing wheat corn and force them to grow money crops such as cotton, sugar cane, oil seeds etc.

Sir, the importance of manure appears to have been altogether lost sight of by the Government. Previously the zamindars got 50 per cent subsidy for chemical manure and 50 per cent subsidy for the green manure i.e., for the seeds of 'guara', and 'hamp' but no amount is provided in the present budget for such help. A lot has doubtless been said about compost but to my mind the huge amounts spent by the Government in this connection are going waste. Instead of giving large sums of money

to the municipalities who have begun using motor cars instead of donkeys for disposal of refuse, subsidy should have been given to the zamindars. There is absolutely no wisdom in giving money to the municipalities. Sir, the supply of good and pure seed to the zamindars can go a very long way in helping our Grow More Food campaign. Last year about sixty thousand maunds of seed were distributed. But this quantity was very insufficient as the actual requirement was in the neighbourhood of about two lakh maunds. This year we expected that adequate funds would be placed at the disposal of the Agriculture Department, so that it could arrange for the required quantity of seed, But unfortunately this has not been done. Sixty thousand maunds is a very small quantity for them. This should have been much more.

Another thing which is being discussed these days is the question of monkeys and wild cows. I learn that thousands of wild cows have been caught during the last few months. It was said in this House that because a number of monkeys had been destroyed, there had been decrease in production of food-grains. I beg to submit, Sir, that it is essential to destroy these animals. In Russia it was calculated that one wolf ate one ton of meat in a year. It was therefore decided to destroy them. Similarly our Government decided to destroy monkeys and wild cows because they damaged the crops. If we remain inactive for five or six years more, their number will grow so large that we will become helpless. In order that we might be able to get food, it would be necessary to destroy them. Ignoring all sentiments we should destroy all those pests which damage food-grains. In rural areas about seventy or eighty per cent of milch cattle are uneconomic. A cow or a buffalo which eats fodder worth ten rupees yields milk of the value of not more than four rupees. We should take steps to save food-grains from every source.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the necessity of research in agriculture. Experiments carried on in America have revealed that by the use of hybrid corn, we can increase production of maize by about 25 to 30 per cent. This process has been successfully adopted in America. According to this system maize is sown in rows and when tassels appear alternate plants are cut. This results in cross-breeding and by this method, the yield of maize-crop in America has been increased by fifty to sixty per cent. If suitable propaganda is carried on among the agriculturists that the production of maize can be increased by at least twenty per cent by the use of hybrid corn, it will serve very useful purpose. I learn that the Central Government proposes to import hybrid corn from America. At the same time there is necessity of propaganda in the villages. About one and a half lakhs of rupees were spent on propaganda last year, but essential information did not reach the agriculturists. One of the pamphlets issued by the Government in Punjabi is entitled *Krishik Vibhag*. It would have been better if it had been issued in simpler language, so that the villagers could understand it. If the language is difficult, it can serve on useful purpose.

Then, Sir, if the money which is spent on compost scheme were used for sinking of tube-wells or for consolidation of holdings, it would have resulted in an increase in production. A person whose land is scattered at seven or eight different places cannot increase his production. If his holdings are consolidated at one place, he would certainly be able to grow more food. It is however regretted that the expenditure to be incurred

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

for this purpose has been reduced to fourteen lakhs of rupees. Patwaris to are free now and useful work could be done if the Government so desired.

It has been said that a smaller number of tractors should be imported. There are already certain difficulties in the matter of import of goods from foreign countries. I requested the Government to issue an ordinance banning the export of cattle. Unless we have good cattle, how can we till the land properly and produce more food? If the price of cattle is very high, refugees will not be able to purchase them. I am sorry that the Government has not issued an Ordinance to this effect so far. I shall again request the Chief Minister to issue the necessary ordinance.

I find that in connection with the 'Grow More Food' campaign two of the schemes mentioned on page 136 of the Explanatory Memorandum are:—

Tubewell electrification, and

Jagadhri Electric Supply Scheme.

Then, Sir, lakhs of rupees are going to be spent on raising the banks of canals. In our canals, there is no need of more water in winter; in the rainy season, it is available in abundance. What is the necessity of spending huge sums on raising canal-banks? If the banks of the Upper Bari Doab Canal are raised, the benefit of increase in water supply will go to Pakistan. In my opinion, all this money is being spent without planning. The Government of India agreed to give one and a half crores of rupees for the 'Grow More Food Scheme' and the different departments have distributed it among themselves. Nothing has been planned for the benefit of the agriculturists.

As regards the ability of Government officers connected with this work, an idea can be formed from the following instance. When there was a scheme for the sanction of funds for boring tube wells, one very high-ranking officer wrote a note that it should first be ascertained whether boring of tube-wells would not cause water-logging. Everybody knows that it is one of the methods adopted for removing water-logging. Another thing which I have heard is this. Once a conference of all the Departments was held and it was enquired as to how much shortage of food-grains existed in the State. It was said to be ten per cent. One of the officers suggested that the shortage of wheat could be remedied by growing it twice a year. What can you expect from those officers who do not know even this much that a particular season is necessary for the raising of wheat crop?

(Mr. Deputy Speaker called upon Chaudhri Sunder Singh to speak).

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. Ever since discussion started on this Demand I have been standing up every time to catch the eye of the Chair but I have not been given a chance to speak. I feel that I am not getting justice as I am not being allowed to have my say as a representative of the landholders in this House. So many things have been said against them but a chance has not been given to their representative to put forward their point of view.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is casting aspersions on the Chair and I ask him to withdraw these words.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : I withdraw the words but I again bring to your notice that I should have been given a chance to speak as I can make a better contribution to the debate, being a representative of the class which is so closely connected with the Grow More Food campaign.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, Order. Chaudhri Sunder Singh has already been called to speak.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh Ex-Member west Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and sialkot, General, Rural Reserved Seat (*Hindi*): Sir, some of my hon. Friends have spoken in favour of the use of tractors while others have spoken against it. But I want to quote the authority of Mahatma Gandhi on this point. At one place he wrote:

The present use of machinery tends more and more to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few in total disregard of millions of men and women whose bread is snatched away by it out of their mouths"

On the one hand, thousands of our tenants are not getting any land for cultivation and on the other hand we find that limitless areas of land are lying uncultivated. Mahatma Gandhi looked towards small things because he thought that great things followed from them. We should follow him in this respect. I know that the Government officers keep the zamindars detained in police stations and Tehsils on small pretexts for days and days together. In this way the crops of those zamindars remain uncared for. Those officers should know that the Government wants the people to grow more food and they should not act against its scheme. Hon. Members belonging to rural areas should look towards these things instead of engrossing themselves in big planning. Mere criticism cannot take us far.

So far as tenants are concerned they are yearning for land while large areas are lying uncultivated. The cause of this state of affairs is the apprehension of the landlords that the tenants would grab their land. Other states like Madras and U. P. have abolished landlordism and its repercussions are also being felt over here. As a result of these repercussions land is lying uncultivated. I support my hon. Friend Sardar Kabul Singh's contention that the zamindars who allow their land to remain uncultivated should be heavily punished. They should even be hanged. We learn that 25 lakh acres of land is lying uncultivated in our State; this is a colossal waste. It is unfortunate that this land should be allowed to remain uncultivated when we know that tenants are clamouring for land. It is our duty to look to this matter. Mahatma Gandhi when he saw a wrong would not ignore it. He thought it to be his duty to get that wrong redressed. Although we talk here so much about villages, yet we never visit them. Every one of us runs some business or the other. The exceptions to this generalisation are the Harijan Members who go about in villages and know the difficulties of the people. As a matter of fact we are all to blame for glossing over hard facts. The purpose of criticism is to keep the Government on toes. Sir, here I may quote passage from the Magazine "Thought" of second July 1949. It runs as follows :—

"It is one of the healthiest signs both in India and Pakistan that there is an outburst of opposition. Opposition is merely a waste of time when there is opposition of everything. The function of Opposition is to keep the Government

[Chaudhri Sunder Singh]

on its toes and to make the Government aware of its shortcomings and that function is being satisfactorily discharged. The function of an organised parliamentary opposition which is supposed to oppose far Opposition's sake and to discredit the existing Government, to have as an alternative a desirable Government is essentially a corrupt and dishonest function."

As far as I am concerned I wish to declare, Sir, that I will oppose the present Government in order to make it realise its short-comings. With these words I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair)

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the discussion on this demand has mainly centred round land reclamation, mechanical farming, sinking of tube wells and jeeps etc. But I have carried an impression that there is a general lack of familiarity with what the Government is doing in the matter of 'Grow More Food' campaign. In order to acquaint the House with regard to what the department has done and what it proposes to do, two pamphlets were distributed to the hon. Members only a few days back. As far as the Grow-More-Food efforts are concerned, all the hon. Members know and in fact every farmer knows that production can be increased in four ways. In the first place the seeds of better quality should be made available to the farmers at reasonably low prices. Secondly the fertilizers should be made use of. Thirdly arrangements should be made for water supply and last of all improved implements should aid the farmers in their day to day work. Another factor that can increase the total production of foodgrains in the province is that cultivable waste should be brought under the plough as far as possible. But the most important thing to remember in this connection is that it is the farmer who has to play an active part in the matter of production and cultivation. Some of the hon. Members have urged us to produce a spirit among the officers of Agriculture Department so that production may increase. Sir, my submission is that although I admit that the officials should have a spirit of devotion to duty, still it is the farmer who has to play an active part in the process of production. The officers are not expected to plough the lands near the Assembly Chamber or near the Secretariat. They have only to provide facilities to the farmers so that they may work in a more efficient and productive manner. They are to encourage, inspire and guide the villagers. That is what they are expected to do and they are doing it satisfactorily.

Sir, another objection has been raised by an hon. Member. It has been stated that we have not tried to win the sympathy and co-operation of the nationalist-minded persons and that we have taken very few Congressmen in the committees. As far as this objection goes they do not know that for us every Congressman, every unionist and every member of other political parties stands on the same level. We don't discriminate between various persons on account of the political views that they might hold. As a matter of fact we approach the farmers. Those who proclaim themselves to be true nationalists should prove their mettle. They have a wide field for activity open before them. They can go to the farmers and give lectures to them on the necessity of increasing the production of foodgrains. Do they not know that shortage of foodgrains is the most important problem of the nation to-day? Do they not know that our worthy Prime Minister has issued an appeal in the matter? They should not mind whether the Government has asked them to cooperate or not. They should not think that any Deputy Commissioner should first ask them to render help in this problem and then they

is amply offset by the propaganda work done by them. Besides, publicity is considered by the people as a mere show or stunt put up by the Government, but the propaganda arranged on jeeps has proved very efficient and useful.

Then the appointment of Naib Tehsildars has been objected to. It has been stated that they do nothing. This is an uncharitable remark. The work in the department regarding girdawri operations and mutations of lands etc., has increased so much that Naib Tehsildars have become necessary to supervise this work.

I would like to refer to the question of tractors again. Some of the hon. Members have spoken against them and others have favoured the employment of tractors for ploughing lands. I may point out that they have proved very useful in reclaiming uncultivable lands which have been lying in that condition for a very long time. All those lands which had reverted to jungle conditions have been rendered fit for cultivation, and are being utilised for more production of food grains. So far the reclamation work is being done by the Central Tractors Organisation and there are about 176 tractors which are under employment for the purpose. Since these tractors have been purchased on our account, Punjab Government will have to purchase them. Besides, I would ask the hon. Members to visit those reclaimed lands which are yielding bumper crops.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I had no opportunity to visit a place where the land was being reclaimed. I found all the tractors standing still.

Minister for Development : Possibly the hon. Member might have gone at the time of harvesting. At that time the tractors were naturally out of use.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I went at the time of harvesting also but was sorry to see the poor yield of the land reclaimed by the tractors.

Minister for Development : My experience is quite the reverse of the hon. Member. I remember when I went to Karnal to see the harvesting operations in the reclaimed lands, I found that the crops were sufficiently rich and I remember to have measured the ear of bajra on horse back and found that its length exceeded my height even. However I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that the land which the Government has been bringing under tractor cultivation, does not belong to it. It is Muslim Evacuee Property and would be handed over to the allottees at the time of making quasi-permanent allotment. Since the allottees would not be possessing necessary equipment to bring this land under cultivation, they would be given cultivable land and the amount spent by the Government in this direction would be realized from them. Land would be reclaimed and made cultivable so that the people to whom this land would be allotted may not feel any difficulties whatsoever in earning their livelihood. When the tractors are free they are employed for cultivating land which has remained unploughed for the last three or four years and which it is not possible to till with bullocks because of the hard soil and the presence of weeds and useless grass. Such tracts of land would be brought under tractor cultivation and given to allottees so that they may earn their livelihood.

Sardar Bachan Singh : But the pace with which this work is being done seems to be so slow that it will take at least a century to make it cultivable.

[Minister for Development]

pendent in the case of urban monkeys who happen to be more influential than their brethren in the rural areas, (*Laughter*). But this does not mean that these urban monkeys do not play mischief with the crops adjoining the urban areas. They do inflict losses.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Minister has remarked that the monkeys have been finished. But the Director of Agriculture has informed us that there are no less than 10 lakhs of monkeys. May I know whether all of them have been finished ?

Minister For Development : What I have stated is that rural monkeys have been finished and the urban monkeys are still at large. (*Laughter*). Then, Sir, an objection has been raised that while we have acquired a large number of tractors, we have no workshops for effecting repairs to them. I may tell the House that we are fully alive to this necessity. We have already a Central Workshop at Amritsar and we intend to set up two more workshops at Karnal and Ludhiana. These will be sufficient to meet our requirements in connection with the repairs of tractors. Now as regards the difficulty of spare parts for the tractors, we are trying to overcome it. Besides, so far as the future supply of tractors is concerned, we have made it obligatory that a certain percentage of spare parts must accompany the tractors, and thus we will be saved the difficulty of finding spare parts required in connection with the repair of tractors. Then another objection has been raised. It is to the effect that a lot of money has been spent on the establishment on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research and also on purchase and repair of implements. I may tell them that the expenditure incurred on these items is shared half and half by the Central and the Punjab Governments. Everybody knows that a tractor cannot be plied without a driver and petrol. Then these tractors are working at such places to reclaim land, as are far removed from any habitation or towns. Naturally arrangements are to be made by the Government to provide certain facilities, like medical aid, accommodation etc., to the workers so that they could perform their duties diligently. Even if a person acquires a tractor, he will have to make adequate arrangements for bringing it into use. Similarly we are spending only on what is essential for the living of those people who ply the tractors for purposes of reclaiming land. We are not incurring any loss on their account as they are working on lands which are yielding greater production.

Then, Sir, jeeps purchased by the Government for purposes of making propaganda in rural areas, have come in for severe criticism. It has been stated that the district officers and Tehsildars make use of them for their own personal comfort. I may tell them that this is a fact far removed from realities. The hon. Members are aware that in districts committees are formed with a view to disseminating information to the zamindars for taking to modern agricultural implements and improved seeds. Several hon. Members might also be members of such Committees and they know how much propaganda these committees do. These committees have not proved useful. So Government have launched upon a new scheme of providing jeeps to the Tehsildars and Deputy Commissioners and their staff, to do this job. They have been burdened with the additional responsibility of approaching every zamindar and impressing upon him the desirability of adopting improved seeds and other modern machinery that would result in enhancing the productivity of their lands, and thus help the 'Grow More Food' campaign. So these jeeps are used not only by the officers but also by their staff for purposes of making propaganda or publicity in rural areas for stepping up the grow more food campaign. Hence the expenditure incurred on the jeeps

will move. If they are true nationalists they should work of their own accord. They should approach the farmer and appeal to him in the name of the nation.

Sir, now I wish to say one or two things more. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang has suggested that we should undertake research of maize. I wish to state for his information that we are already doing our best in this direction and the results so far achieved are quite satisfactory and we hope to be successful in the matter of producing a fine quality of maize very soon. An objection has been raised regarding the scheme of Jagadhari tubewell electrification of 'Grow More Food' campaign. It has been said that the expenses of these schemes are a mere waste of money. But I must inform the hon. Members that the opinion of the critics is not based upon facts. The tubewells will supplement the water supply from the canal and this means an increase in the supply of water to the farmers as a result of which the production will go up. The question of raising the banks of the canal has also been decided upon in order to achieve the same object. The assumption which some quarters seem to make that the increased supply of water is intended to be sent to Pakistan is quite wrong. I don't wish to say anything which might be against any Inter-Dominion agreement. But still I can assure the House that nothing will be done which is against the interests of our people. Then, Sir, Government has been severely criticised for stopping the subsidies which were being granted to the zamindars for the construction of percolation wells.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Government could commit no worse crime than this.

Minister For Development : I admit that the zamindars have been hard hit by the stoppage of these grants. I also feel that when we press the zamindars to step up production and give more attention to the Grow More Food schemes, it also becomes the paramount duty of the Government to arrange for the provision of increased irrigation facilities. (*Hear, hear*). I may tell the hon. Members that Government are alive to the fact that many of the lands in the Punjab are mainly barani lands and the need of the wells is all the more imperative. But the difficulty with which the Government is faced, is this. All that money which the Punjab Government used to advance to the zamindars was Central Government's money. Now they have stopped the grant of this loan to us. Consequently we have been compelled to stop these subsidies to the zamindars. But I may assure the House and through it the zamindars that every endeavour is being made by the Government to renew the grant of subsidies to them. If we succeed in our efforts we will most certainly extend monetary assistance to them. (*Cheers*)

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Please press on the Government of India to grant you the loan.

Minister For Development : We are leaving no stone unturned to bring round the Central Government to advance money to us for that purpose. Then, Sir, we have been accused of killing innocent monkeys. My hon. Friends forget the havoc wrought by these animals on crops and the amount of loss they inflict on the zamindars. This campaign was started with the sole purpose of saving the crop of the zamindars from the onslaught of the monkeys ; otherwise Government nursed no ill-will against them. (*Laughter*). However, I may tell the House that Government has succeeded in driving out or killing the rural monkeys, but the scheme has been sus-

Minister for Development : We have been doing all that can possibly be done within the slender means at our disposal. If the hon. Member suggests any other source of getting more money, in that case we shall naturally be able to do more but if on the other hand only obstacles are placed in the way of our doing this work, then we cannot succeed in doing this useful work.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Government would be realizing Rs. 60 lakhs on account of abiana.

Minister for Development : Even crores of rupees spent in this direction would be insufficient. I may tell the hon. Member that whatever we have been spending in this direction does not belong to us. This amount we have secured on loan from the Government of India and it has got to be returned with interest. Under the circumstances it is necessary for us to make all-out efforts to spend this loan-money in a way that we may derive the maximum benefits from it. This scheme is therefore being undertaken on loan basis. It is because of this fact that we do not intend making any grants or subsidies available to people. On the other hand we want to embark upon such production schemes from which we are sure to derive maximum benefits.

An hon. Member has in the course of his speech laid much stress on the point that the Government should divert its attention towards imparting agricultural education. In this connection I would like to point out that we are planning to establish an agricultural college at Ludhiana on the same lines as the Lyallpur Agricultural College:

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What about agricultural education in the schools ?

Minister for Development : So far as agricultural education in the schools is concerned, the Education Department has already started basic education in schools. Government has decided that agricultural education should be imparted from the very start to the children of agriculturists in the schools in the rural areas. Government is trying to work out the scheme as best as it can with a view to derive maximum benefits.

With these words, Sir, I would request my hon. Friends to give their wholehearted support to the Demand now before the House.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54, 01, 980 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

The motion was carried

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st March 1950

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

21st March 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

***1653 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of communist detenus who have represented to the Government that they have dissociated themselves from the communist party;

(b) the action taken by the Government on their representations ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 12

(b) (i) Accepted. 5

(ii) Rejected. 2

(iii) Under consideration. 5

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister please state as to when these people sent their representations to the Government ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has pointed out that twelve representations have been received by the Government. Could he not tell as to when these representations were received ?

Chief Minister : I do not remember the date.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know as to how much time is taken to dispose of such representations ?

Chief Minister : They are disposed of after an enquiry.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government takes into consideration the reports sent by the police or the reports of other people are also taken into consideration ?

Chief Minister : The Government gets reports for this purpose from its own officials.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if such cases are sent to the Advisory Board ?

Chief Minister : The Board has nothing to do with these cases,

ADVISORY BOARD

*1654. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of cases of Communist detenus reviewed by the Advisory Board ;
- (b) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the board ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 324.

- (b) Government considered the recommendations of the Advisory Tribunal and accepted most of them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister please explain the phrase "most of them" ?

Chief Minister : It means what it means.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The expression "most of them" is very vague. I seek your protection, Sir, and request the hon. Chief Minister to be more precise.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : It is not possible for me to compel a Minister to give a reply to a particular question.

Chief Minister : My reply is there and I have nothing to add to it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In how many cases has the Board made recommendations for the release of detenus ?

Chief Minister : The question has already been replied to

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if any detenu is allowed to appear before the Advisory Board in person, if he so desires.

Chief Minister : No, that is not allowed.

COMMUNIST DETENUS

*1655. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Communist detenus were lathi-charged in Ferozepur and Yole Camp Jails recently ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The communist detenus of Yole Jail used violence on the Jail authorities and damaged the Jail buildings on the 10th January, 1950 in order to resist the implementation of the order of the Government about the transfer of certain detenus to other Jails, while the detenus of Ferozepur Jail created trouble on 6th February, 1950 on the refusal of a jail warder to bring inside the Jail some articles which were not allowed under the Jails rules. They assaulted the Jail staff and the situation was brought under control with the use of minimum force.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister please state the number of the detenus who were injured in the lathi charge ?

Chief Minister : The desired information can be supplied if notice is given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that after the affray, the detenus were confined to their cells and were beaten there ?

Chief Minister : No, there is no truth in that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if any of these detenus will be tried in a court for committing violence in the gaol

Chief Minister : It shall be decided afterwards.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How long after the incident, would this be decided ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of injured among the detenus and also among the gaol staff ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if any detenu will be tried in a court for committing violence ?

Chief Minister ; The question has already been replied to.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if these detenus have directly sent any representation to the Government ?

Chief Minister : Yes, they have demanded an enquiry.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government is prepared to allow an unofficial enquiry ?

Chief Minister : In these cases, the enquiries are conducted by Government officials only.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that some Communists are on hunger-strike since the lathi charge ?

Chief Minister : The Government is not prepared to encourage such a thing, nor is it prepared to submit this time as was done once before. Now no leniency will be shown to anybody who practises violence inside a gaol or outside.

DETENTION OF SARDAR AJIT SINGH AND JAGDEV SINGH

*1656. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the detention of Sardar Ajit Singh and Jagdev Singh of police station Muktsar ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : They have been detained for activities prejudicial to Public Safety and order.

POLITICAL WORKERS.

*1639. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) Whether any fines, paid by political workers, during the British, regime, have been refunded by the Government ;

[Shri Virendra]

- (b) If so, the number of persons to whom such fines have been refunded, and the actual amount paid back so far ;
- (c) the number of Government servants if any, who were dismissed during the British regime, for political activities and who now have been re-instated so far in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) 30. The fines amounting to Rs. 6928/8/- have been refunded.

(c) (i) In this connection the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given to part (a) (ii) of Assembly Question No. 1435 (Starred).

(c) (ii) Such information is not available. It is being collected. The information if and when available will be supplied to hon. Member.

Shri Virendra : May I know if all the applications received in this connection have been disposed of ?

Chief Minister : Not yet.

Shri Virendra : When would they be disposed of ?

Chief Minister : As soon as the enquiries are complete.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What does the Government intend to do in the cases of persons who have come from the Pakistan and possess no receipts etc ?

Chief Minister : Whatever proof is available will be taken into consideration for this purpose.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the fact that the records of Tehsils are destroyed after every 12 years ?

Chief Minister : I have already said whatever proof will be made available will be taken into consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Chief Minister aware of the fact that the Government insists on getting back the receipts of payment of fine as also date of payment and of conviction, although workers fined were usually in gaol at that time and the receipts could not be preserved ? Is it not a fact that they are now debarred from getting back the amounts of fines, on account of such formalities ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member brings any specific cases to my notice, I can look into them. I may, however, point out that it is not the intention of the Government to reject such applications on minor technical grounds.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not sufficient that such persons should give applications and the Government may see their records and find out whether they really deserve the repayment of fines or not ?

Chief Minister : The Government entertains such applications and action is taken on them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : As a matter of fact when the applications are given to the Deputy Commissioner and other officers they are returned with the remarks that in the absence of any proof the applications cannot be entertained.

Chief Minister : I may inform the hon. Member that the applications are invited by the Chief Secretary and not by the district officers.

SARDAR HARKISHAN SINGH.

***1702. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Harkishan Singh, Editor, Punjab Sahitya, was arrested under the Punjab Public Safety Act, if so, the reason thereof ;
- (b) whether his case was placed before the State Press Advisory Committee ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The case is sub-judice. Therefore no reply can be given.

EMPLOYEES OF THE OMNIBUS SERVICE.

***1442. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the employees of the Omnibus Service and other Transport Companies and Labourers working in the work charged section of the Public Works Department are governed by the provisions of the Factories Act and the Trade Employees Act ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether the labourers working under P. W. D., enjoy the same facilities regarding holidays, working hours and medical aid as the labourers working in the private factories and institutions ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) The Punjab Trade Employees Act is not applicable to Omnibus and other Transport Companies and the work charged Section of the P. W. D. because they do not come under the definition of Commercial Establishment. The provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, are applicable to the labourers employed in P. W. D. Central Workshop, Amritsar and other Workshops, which come under the definition of a factory according to the Factories Act.

- (b) Labourers working in the Public Works Department are employed on daily wages basis and they are paid for the days actually worked. The work charged Establishment are allowed facilities with regard to casual leave etc. according to the provisions of the Punjab P. W. D. Code. Labourers working in the P. W. D. Workshops are, however, allowed facilities

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regarding holidays ; medical aid etc. according to the provisions of the Factories Act.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether instructions have been issued to P. W. D. that Sundays and other holidays should be given to the labourers ?

Minister : Instructions have been issued that all holidays mentioned in the code should be given to the labourers.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that holiday is given for one Sunday and the next Sunday they are made to work ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What are the difficulties of the Government in the matter of their giving further facilities to these workers ? Do the Government propose to revise their code in such respects ?

Minister : The matter is being considered and we are thinking of making such amendments in accordance with the provisions of the central P. W. D. code ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can we hope that such amendment will be taken into consideration in one or two months' time.

Minister : I think so.

TRUCKS FOR REMOVAL OF DEBRIS IN AMRITSAR.

***1622. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of trucks working in the city of Amritsar for the removal of debris from the city ;
- (b) whether the whole work has been contracted out ;
- (c) if the answer to (b) above is in the negative, (i) how much money is being paid to the contractor per truck per day (ii) whether petrol is supplied by the Government at its own cost ; (iii) whether labour is paid for by the contractor or by the Government ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) At present no trucks are working in the city of Amritsar for the removal of debris. The work was stopped in February, 1950.

- (b) & (c) Do not arise.

LABOUR WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

***1624. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Labour Welfare Department under the Punjab Government has been abolished ;

- (b) whether the services of the Labour Welfare officers in the Punjab have been dispensed with ;
- (c) the reasons for the closing of this Department ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) No.

(b) & (c) The question does not arise.

**PANCHYAT ELECTION IN VILLAGE AULUKH KALAN,
DISTRICT GURDASPUR.**

*1630. Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that an announcement was made with the beat of drum on the 27th February, 1949 to the effect that nomination papers for elections to the Panchyat of Aulukh Kalan in the District of Gurdaspur be submitted on the 27th February, 1949 and that the elections would be held on the 28th February, 1949 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a complete list of the voters was not displayed in the office of the Panchayat Officer concerned ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Panchyat Officer, concerned refused to accept the nomination papers of S. Tara Singh s/o S. Deva Singh Ramgarhia and S. Inder Singh s/o S. Balwant Singh caste Jat of the same village ; if so, the reasons for it ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the aggrieved party submitted complaints to the higher authorities on the 28th February, 1949 with the signatures of about 250 persons ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that similar complaints were also made by the villagers of (1) Bhumbli, (2) Bham (3) Harchowal and (4) Chiman against the Panchayat Officer concerned ;
- (f) if the answer to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Government against the Panchayat Officer concerned ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : a) The announcement was made on the 21st February, 1949. and not on the 27th February 1949. Election was to be held on the 28th February, 1949.

- (b) Voters list was open for inspection from 20-1-49 with the Sarpanch and claims and objections were invited by the Assistant Panchayat Officer on 31-1-49.
- (c) (i) No. They did not submit any nomination papers.
(ii) Does not arise.
- (d) An application signed by 122 persons was received but it was received on 9-3-49 when the election had been confirmed.

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(e) The panchayats of Harchowal and Bham have not started functioning and no election has been held so far. The election of panchayat village Bhumpli was held by the predecessor of the present Panchayat Officer and the allegations about this panchayat were found baseless. That panchayat election of village Chiman Khudhi was held by the Assistant Panchayat Officer Batala and not by the Panchayat Officer.

(f) Does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has used the word 'baseless' in his answer. Are this reply and the manner in which it has been given based on the report which has been submitted by those officers against whom the questioner made allegations ?

Minister : The report and the enquiry has been carried out by high-placed and responsible officers.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the department to which these 'responsible' officers belong ?

Minister : They are officers of the Panchayat Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government any other source to find out whether the complaint is correct or not ? I don't think the officers of the department against which a complaint is made can submit correct information.

Minister : This opinion of the hon. Member is not right.

REPRESENTATION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES IN SERVICES IN LOCAL BODIES.

***1633. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state the percentage of the members of the scheduled castes in the ranks of officers, senior clerks, Junior clerks, chungi moharrers in the offices of the Municipalities, Town Committees, District Boards and District Medical Health Officers in all the districts of the Punjab District-wise ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I admit that to supply exact figures for all of these departments will take time. But can the hon. Minister tell us as to why the scheduled castes are not properly represented in local bodies especially in the matter of higher posts ?

HOSHIARPUR-DERA-KANGRA ROAD.

***1700. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for public works be pleased to stated, whether the Government proposes to build the Hoshiarpur-Dera-Kangra Road, if so when, if not, the reasons therefore ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : 1st portion of the question :—Yes.
2nd portion of the question :—As quickly as funds permit.

Shri Virendra : Is the hon. Minister aware that a provision for the building of this road has consistently been made in the budgets for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 and even last year an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs was provided for its construction and yet the road has not been completed? May I also know if there is a limit to the meaning implied in the expression 'as soon as possible'?

Minister : I have said 'as quickly as the funds permit.' It is true that provisions were made several times but there is no help when funds are lacking.

Shri Virendra : Do I take it that provisions are made in the Budget without ascertaining the fact whether funds are available for the purpose or not?

Minister : The difficulty is that the financial position fluctuates very often.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any provision for this road has been made in the Budget for 1950?

Minister : No.

AGRARIAN REFORMS COMMITTEE.

***1385. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government made any use of the Agrarian Reforms Committee formed by the All India Congress Committee ;
- (b) whether the recommendations of this committee have been examined by Government ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes a copy of the Agrarian Reforms Committee's report has recently been received from the Secretary All India Congress, Committee New Delhi.

- (b) It is being examined by Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when this report received was by the Government ?

Minister : It was received only recently.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that this report has been in possession of the Government for a considerable period and the reply which the hon. Minister has now given, has already been repeated several times?

Minister : I am not aware of any such thing. I know that the report was received by the Government only recently.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that a deputation of the Agrarian Reforms Committee wanted to visit the Punjab to see things for themselves, but the Government advised them not to come here ?

Minister : I require notice for this. It is possible that something of the kind might have been done in the previous regime.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether the Agrarian Reforms Committee sent a memorandum to the Punjab Government for consideration ?

Minister : No, sir.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that the Punjab Government did not allow the Agrarian Reforms Committee to visit this State ?

Chief Minister : This is incorrect.

Shri Virendra : May I know who has considered this report and if some Secretary to the Government or some hon. Minister or some sub-committee has been constituted for going into the matter ?

Minister : I am considering this report. It is also receiving the careful attention of the Financial Commissioner.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the present consideration of the report is the continuation of the old one, which was being given by the previous Government ?

Minister : This question should be addressed to the Ministers of the previous Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Government wrote to the Committee that the proposals contained in their report were not likely to benefit this province because things discussed in the report did not exist here ?

Chief Minister : I never wrote that.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know since how long the Government has been considering this report and when will the consideration stage be over ?

Minister : This question has already been replied to.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Did the Government send any views to the Agrarian Reforms Committee ?

Minister : No views were sent as it was not required ?

Chief Minister : As a matter of fact the Finance Minister had informed the Agrarian Reforms Committee, that so long as Quasi Permanent Allotment of lands was not completed, the condition in the Punjab remained fluid and thus no useful purpose would be served by the visit of that Committee. The Committee were convinced of the cogency of the argument and did not come here.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My point is, what did he write to the Committee ?

Chief Minister : As I have already stated, I wrote on similar lines that since the Quasi Permanent Allotment of land had not yet been completed

and in consequence the conditions in the Punjab were fluid, I could not express any definite view in regard to the questionnaire sent by them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the proposals made by the Committee were in regard to the relations between the tenants and landlords existing in the Punjab? If so, what views did the Government convey to the Committee on the subject?

Chief Minister : I have nothing to add to what I have already stated. In fact I have expressed nothing regarding this matter.

LORRY ACCIDENTS.

***1480. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of lorry accidents which took place during the year 1949 in the State ;
- (b) the number of persons who died and of those who received injuries as a result of these accidents ;
- (c) the nature of punishment awarded to the lorry drivers responsible for these accidents ;
- (d) the number of lorry drivers who died as a result of these accidents ;
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the number of such accidents ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) 222.

(b) Killed 80. Injured 231.

(c) (i) Fines ; (ii) cancellation of driving licenses ; and
(iii) Imprisonment.

(d) Killed 7. Injured 5.

(e) The Government has set up a Safety First Board in the Province, the function of which is to devise ways and means to educate the public in general and the drivers of the vehicles in particular in road sense with the object of reducing the number of accidents and consequent toll of human life.

The enforcement staff has been increased and a Deputy Superintendent of Police has been appointed in the Transport Department to supervise the operation of vehicles on the road. He delivers instructions to the drivers in order to acquaint them with road sense. Strict instructions have been issued to the enforcement staff to launch prosecutions in cases in which vehicles are found standing in the middle of the road blocking traffic or which do not give way to faster traffic.

The Transport vehicles are examined by the Board of Inspection after every 6 months and in order to avoid accidents due to mechanical defects only those vehicles are declared fit which are in sound mechanical condition. Prosecutions are also launched for mechanical defects in the vehicles or if

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drivers are found infringing the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act and the rules thereunder.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated that the accidents resulted in 80 deaths but only one driver was convicted. May I know who was responsible for the remaining deaths ?

Minister : The drivers were not found guilty of causing deaths in the remaining 79 cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government was responsible for these deaths ?

Minister : No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the drivers going scot free in 79 cases, were declared not guilty as a result of the finding by some court or was it the result of some departmental enquiry ?

Minister : Yes, that was the decision of the court.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : When it has been stated by the hon. Minister that out of 80 deaths caused by the motor accidents only one driver was convicted, may I know whether in the remaining 79 cases, the deceased committed suicide ?

Minister : In those cases the negligent driving of the drivers was not proved and so their conviction could not be brought about.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Has any compensation been paid to the people injured or to the heirs of the people who were killed as a result of these accidents ?

Minister : It all depends upon the discretion of the magistrate on facts of each case. If he thinks proper that the heirs of the deceased deserve any compensation, he grants them.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether compensation has been paid in any case ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, information will be collected.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any deaths have occurred as a result of accidents with the cars belonging to high officers or the hon. Ministers ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has it come to the notice of the Government that the drivers of high officers and hon. Ministers drive their cars recklessly ?

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that out of 80 deaths caused by motor accidents, a driver received conviction in only one case, may I know whether the police challaned the drivers in the remaining 79 cases ? If so, what were the findings of the court in each case ?

Minister : This information can be collected, if the hon. Member gives notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the number of motor accidents has been increasing since the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and that the present number of accidents far exceeds the number of accidents which took place $2\frac{1}{2}$ years ago ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know who are the members of the Safety Board which has been constituted to make proposals for reducing the number of motor accidents in future ?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Is it parliamentary for the hon. Minister to give a reply while sitting ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not permissible. He should rise in his seat.

ASSESSMENT OF LAND REVENUE ON A SLIDING SCALE

***1481. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the year in which Re-settlement operations were carried out in each district of the State ;
- (b) whether assessment of land revenue on a sliding scale has been introduced in any one of the 13 districts of the State ;
- (c) the districts in which this system of assesment is proposed to be introduced ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| (a) | { | 1. Hissar. 1910, 1911 and 1922. |
| | { | 2. Rohtak. 1909 and 1910. |
| Ambala
division. | { | 3. Gurgaon. 1942 and 1943. |
| | { | 4. Karnal. 1909. |
| | { | 5. Ambala. 1917 and 1919. |
| | { | 6. Simla. 1916 and 1917. |
| Jullundur
division. | { | 7. Kangra. 1914 and 1916 and 1917 and 1918
(Kulu Sub-division under settlement
at present.) |
| | { | 8. Hoshiarpur. 1914 and 1915. |
| | { | 9. Jullundur. 1915 and 1916. |
| | { | 10. Ludhiana. 1911 and 1912. |
| | { | 11. Ferozepore. 1913 and 1914. |
| | { | 12. Amritsar. 1945 (Patti Tehsil 1939) |
| | { | 13. Gurdaspur. 1910 and 1912. |
- (b) Yes.
 - (c) This will be considered when settlement operations take place.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the resettlement operations have not been carried out in the districts of Hissar, Karnal and Rohtak since 1909. If so, what are the reasons for this delay ?

Minister: Financial difficulties.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister please state as to what he means by 'financial difficulties' ? Is it a fact that the income of our State is increasing day by day ?

Chief Minister : The staff of the Revenue Department is at present busy with the work in connection with the allotment of land. It is not possible to carry out this work without their help.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, there are two replies to one question. Which is right and which is wrong ?

Mr. Speaker : Both are right. (*Laughter*).

Shri Prabodh Chandra : And both are wrong.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the work in connection with the settlement was carried out about 10 years ago ? May I know whether this work will first of all be carried out in the district of Rohtak after the completion of the allotment work ?

Minister : At that time it will be seen in which district this work should be carried out first.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma ; Has the assessment of Land Revenue on a sliding scale been introduced anywhere in our State ?

Minister : Except in Karnal the work has not been started anywhere.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Why has so much delay been caused in doing this work ? Why is this work being done so slowly ?

Minister : It is not being done so slowly as the hon. Member thinks. The services of trained men are needed for carrying out this work and those who are available are busy with the allotment work.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if assessment of Land Revenue has been introduced in the district of Kulu on a sliding scale basis ?

Chief Minister : That will be known on receipt of the report.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have any instructions been issued to the Settlement Officers to introduce the sliding scale system ?

Chief Minister : That depends upon the condition prevalent over there.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is it the intention of the Government to issue orders for carrying out the Resettlement operations ? If so, when ?

Chief Minister : These operations will be carried out when Government would be in a position to do so.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know as to when Government intends carrying out such operations ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that at the present moment. However I may inform the hon. Member that these operations would be carried out after completing the work in connection with the Consolidation of Holdings.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : If that be so, should we take it that Resettlement Operations would not be carried out at least for 10 years to come ?

Chief Minister : It is not possible for me to make such guesses.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government framed any policy according to which assessment of land revenue should be introduced on the sliding scale ?

Chief Minister ; That would be done at the opportune time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that much stress was laid on the introduction of this system by the Congress members during the regime of Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan ?

Chief Minister : At that time my learned Friend also laid stress on this point. However, I would like to inform the hon. Member that decision would be made according to the changed conditions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the conditions prevalent then were in favour of introducing the system of sliding scale and the present conditions do not permit taking the same steps so far as our own Government is concerned ?

Chief Minister : The conditions prevailing at that time permitted its introduction. So far as our State is concerned, this matter would be decided at the opportune time.

FREE JOURNEY BY POLICE EMPLOYEES IN UNIFORM

***1583. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaint sent by S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A. vide his letter No. 297 dated 17. 2. 50 regarding the free journeys undertaken by police employees in uniform in the Omnibus Service was received by him on or about the 20th February, 1950 ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether any enquiry was made about the complaint and the result thereof ;
- (c) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government in such matters ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) & (c) An enquiry is being conducted and necessary action will be taken if on inquiry the allegation is found to be correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sahrma : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that police officers travel in buses free when in uniforms ?

Minister : Government comes to know about it when such a matter is brought to its notice.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the policy of the Government so far as this matter is concerned ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** From a particular the hon. Member comes to a general question.

Minister : To respect the rules.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Was the report made by the M. L. A. concerned on his personal observation or hearsay ?

Minister : The hon. Member can get this information from him.

RATES OF PANCHOTRA

***1585. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the rates of Panchotra allowed to the village Headmen for the collection of the Land Revenue and the Abiana respectively ;
- (b) whether there is any difference between the rates ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government intends to revise the present rates of the aforesaid Panchotras ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Village Headmen are allowed 5% on Land Revenue and 3% on Abiana respectively.

- (b) Yes. Abiana rates per acre are higher than Land Revenue, therefore, collection charges are less.
- (c) No. The Lamberdar in the opinion of the Government gets enough for making collections.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it a fact that more difficulties are being experienced in the collection of land revenue than in water rates ?

Minister : The question only relates to rates allowed to them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Are they paid according to the labour they put in or on some contract basis ?

Minister : Payments are made to them under rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if under the changed conditions the Government is prepared to effect some change in these rules as has already been done in the case of other rules ?

Minister : I do not think there is any necessity to do so.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : For how long have these rules been in force ?

Minister : I think for many many years.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Do I take it that these rules have been in force for 20 years or 30 years ?

Minister : These rules are in force in the Punjab since 15th August, 1947 in the united Punjab they were in force for a pretty long time.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Does the hon. Chief Minister agree that the collection charges were very much less than they are now ? Under these circumstances is he contemplating an increase in the percentage ?

Minister : I fail to understand how the collection charges have gone high.

OMNIBUS SERVICE IN URBAN AREAS.

***1626. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of places (urban) covered by Omnibus Service in the State ;
- (b) the number of buses working in such places ;
- (c) the names of places covered by the Omnibus service with the date of their commencement in each case ;
- (d) the total number of motor engines imported together with their total cost ;
- (e) the total cost of these buses including the cost of their bodies ;
- (f) the total amount earned by the Punjab Government after the partition, together with the total expenses incurred in this connection ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Jullundur & Amritsar ;

(b) Jullundur.....38 buses and Amritsar.....30 buses ;

(c) Jullundur.

| <i>Particulars of routes</i> | <i>Date of commencement.</i> |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Basti Baba Khel and City Railway Station | May, 1948. |
| 2. City Railway Station & Cantt. Railway Station | May, 1948. |
| 3. City Secretariat and Sadar Bazar | May, 1948. |
| 4. City Railway Station and D. A. V. College | May, 1948. |
| 5. City Railway Station and Basti Guzan | May, 1948. |
| 6. District Courts (Jullundur) & Kartarpur | May, 1948. |
| 7. Adda Nakodar and Lambra | November, 1948. |
| 8. District courts (Jullundur & Adampur) | November, 1948. |
| 9. D. A. V. College and Sadar | April, 1949. |

[Minister for Education]

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|---|----------------|
| 10. District Courts (Jullundur) & Kapurthala | June, 1949. |
| 11. District Courts (Jullundur) & Amritsar Via Kapurthala | June, 1949. |
| 12. Adda Nakodar (Jullundur) & King Sabu | January, 1950. |
| 13. Model Town (Jullundur) and Basti Sheikhan | January, 1950. |
| 14. District Courts (Jullundur) & Phagwara | January, 1950. |

AMRITSAR

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Chandiwind Gate to District Courts | December, 1948. |
| 2. Hall Gate to Khalsa College | December, 1948. |
| 3. Railway Station to Chheharta Mehta Bros. | December, 1948. |
| 4. Railway station to Chheharta Town. | December, 1948. |
| 5. Hall Gate to Verka | January, 1949. |
| 6. Hall Gate to Jandiala | February, 1949. |
| 7. Railway Station to Raja Sansi | February, 1949. |
| 8. Hall Gate to Wagha Border | March, 1949. |
| 9. Hall Gate to Chabbal | April, 1949. |
| 10. Chatiwind Gate to Taran Taran | April, 1949. |
| 11. Ram Bagh to Majitha | December, 1949. |

(d) Jullundur.....Nil & Amritsar.....Nil.

(e) Jullundur...Rs. 4, 51, 207/3/6 & Amritsar...Rs. 4, 30, 723/9/6.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (f) Jullundur | Amritsar. |
| Revenue Rs. 12, 70, 299-10-0. | Rs. 11, 18, 076-14-9. |
| Expenditure. Rs. 10, 79, 995-1-0. | Rs. 9, 72, 461-12-8. |

PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

***1657. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of new Primary and High Schools opened by the Government in the State after the partition ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (i) High Schools with Primary Departments 2

(ii) Primary Schools.....2 and one Nursery School.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How is it that keeping in view the principle of compulsory education, the Government has opened very few schools in the State ?

Minister : Twenty-five more schools will be opened next year.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do the Government not feel ashamed of having done little in this direction ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know how many schools are likely to be opened ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the primary schools have been opened by the Government or by the District Boards or by the Municipal Committees ?

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : If the number of schools has been increased, may I know whether the provision of grant will be sufficient ?

Minister : If the number of schools has been increased, the Government will give them necessary grant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether these schools have been opened by the Government or by the local bodies as well ?

Chief Minister : It has been asked by some of my Friends why there has not been a satisfactory progress in the primary education through the schools opened by the Government. I may inform them that such schools have been opened by the District Boards and the Government only give them the necessary grant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that the number of schools that have been closed is more than the number of Primary schools that have been opened ?

Chief Minister : This is a wrong insinuation.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

***1685. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the resolution on Compulsory Primary Education for all children in the State passed unanimously by the Assembly during the Autumn Session 1949 ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : The Department is anxious to implement the resolution on Compulsory Primary Education for all children in the State passed unanimously by the Assembly in the Autumn Session, 1949. With this end in view the Punjab Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1940 is being enforced. This will apply to girls as well as boys and will promote compulsory primary education more vigorously than the Punjab Compulsory Primary Education Act 1919 which has hitherto been in force. The amendments to the Punjab Primary Compulsory Education Act, 1940, which are proposed to be brought up before the Assembly during this session, if passed, will help to improve the financial resources of the local bodies. Government is most anxious to spend 50% of its total budget on Primary Education in 1950-51. It is most anxious to find all the money it can to assist local bodies by way of grants. The latter must also be put into a position of improving their resources. As a measure of policy Government will give greater assistance to those Local Bodies which make an earnest endeavour to improve their own resources for education.

According to the policy of Government all new schools must be of basic type ; 25 such schools will be opened in 1950-51, and as more basic trained teachers become available larger number of schools will be opened in the years to come.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know how much expenditure will be involved in the opening of these schools ?

Minister : The Government propose to spend 50 percent or even more if possible.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the number of trained teachers is not sufficient ; if so, what steps the Government propose to take to train them in large number ?

Minister : Basic training is being imparted to these teachers and this system will continue. Anyhow, Government will train as many teachers as it can.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government fixed any target date by which it will be able to complete this work or will it take unlimited period of 50 to 100 years ?

Minister : A period of ten years has been fixed in the new Constitution to complete this work.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that very little expenditure is being incurred on primary education : in cities such expenditure is more than in villages ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a question of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How far are the provisions of Compulsory Primary Education Act being enforced in the State ? Has the Government completed the scheme of basic education it wants to enforce ?

Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What are the salient features of this scheme ? What time will it take to educate people under this system ?

Minister : According to this system, the Government will specify an area where boys and girls will be imparted co-education in the same school. Government is making increased provision for the District Boards. It must be said that it goes to the credit of the President, District Board, Karnal that he has raised a subscription of four lakhs for imparting Basic education and if public support is forthcoming, we shall make it a success.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know in what areas this compulsory education scheme is being tried now ?

Minister : There are some places.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the names of such places ?

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how much time will it take to introduce this scheme throughout the State ?

Minister : It is an all India problem. The Advisory Board is devising a system of basic education. The Government will act according to the suggestions made by the Advisory Board.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what will be the increase in the percentage of education to the people by the end of the year 1951 ?

Minister : It is a matter of detail.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I ask whether sufficient number of teachers, schools and other educational facilities would be available in areas where the Government propose to try this compulsory training scheme ?

Minister : The Government will see how many teachers are available and then decide about the opening of schools.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is this scheme being implemented from Government point of view, keeping in view the number of teachers etc., available or from peoples' point of view, e. g , population and the number of schools needed for it ?

Minister : Government's point of view and the peoples' point of view mean the same thing.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that in order to promote compulsory education in villages, untrained teachers are not granted allowances while the pensioners are forced to do this work gratis ?

Minister : I thank the hon. Member for his suggestion.

Sardar Baehan Singh : Is it because that the Constitution has conferred wide powers on the Government that it is indifferent to the interests of the pensioners ?

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

PROFESSORS

***1686. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the lot of professors in (i) Government Colleges and (ii) Privately managed colleges ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (i) *Government Colleges.*

At present there are three categories of lecturers in Government Colleges :—

- (1) Professors in P. E. S. Class I Rs. 350-40-750/40-950/50-1200
(Gazetted)
- (2) Senior Lecturers in P. E. S. Class II Rs. 250-25-550/25-750
(Gazetted)
- (3) Lecturers in S. E. S. Rs. 150-10-190/200-10-250/10-300/10-350
(Non-gazetted).

Before the partition there used to be three different grades for Non-Gazetted lecturers viz. Rs. 230-10-270/10-300, Rs. 150-10-190/10-200 and Rs. 90-5-100/5-150, but with effect from 15-8-1947 all these three grades were merged into one time scale viz. 150-10-190/200-10-250/10-300/10-350.

From the above it is clear that the lot of the professors in Government colleges is already very satisfactory and Government has at present no proposal to do anything further in the matter.

[Minister for Education]

(ii) *Privately Managed Colleges.*

A committee to consider the question of amelioration of the conditions of the service of the professors in privately managed colleges has already been set up and its recommendations, when received, will be duly considered.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is not the Government aware of the agitation which is being made by the teachers and owing to which the students are being put to a great disadvantage ?

Minister : Agitations do not serve any useful purpose. However, a committee has been set up by the university to go into matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government sanctioned some funds to implement the report that will be submitted by this committee ?

Chief Minister : Government is not responsible for providing funds if private colleges are put to additional expenditure as a result of the implementation of the report.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is there any difference in education imparted in Government colleges and privately managed colleges.

Chief Minister : Education has to be in accordance with university curriculum.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Why should greater facilities be given to teachers and the students of Government colleges in comparison with those of the privately managed colleges ?

Chief Minister : The responsibility for maintaining Government colleges lies on the Government, whereas the responsibility for running other colleges is on those who manage them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that public is forced to open colleges as Government cannot meet their needs ?

Chief Minister : Government takes no responsibility for running colleges other than the Government colleges. To other colleges it gives a grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,00,000.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What is the reason that Government does not feel the necessity of fixing minimum wages for the builders of the nation when it does so in the case of manual workers in privately owned factories ?

Chief Minister : The teachers do not come in under the Factories Act. However a committee has been set up by the university representing the interests of teachers, private colleges and the Government to go into the question.

Sardar Bachan Singh : When Government has no responsibility towards the privately managed colleges, may I take it that grant-in-aid is given to them merely as charity.

Chief Minister : The words grant-in-aid mean that.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When was this committee constituted and who are its members ?

Chief Minister : It has two representatives of teachers, two representatives of Managing Committees, the Education Minister, the Chief Minister and the Director of Public Instruction, as its members.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that colleges exist in urban areas and not in rural areas?

VERNACULAR TEACHERS.

* 1687. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government has considered the demand put from time to time by the Vernacular teachers serving in the State, if so, the result thereof?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Yes. The demands put forth by the Union of the Government Classical and Vernacular Teachers from time to time have been considered and agreed to where it is possible to do so within the means of Government. The percentage of posts obtainable in various grades of this class of service is being raised from 10%, 15% and 75% to 15%, 35% and 50% inter-grade promotion from 1. 4. 1950 which would remove the disparity between English and Vernacular Teachers to great extent.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware that the foreign government used to encourage English at the cost of Vernaculars and that such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue?

Minister : The disparity between the English knowing and Vernacular knowing persons was due to the fact that the former were considered better qualified.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the Government intend giving the same importance to Vernaculars as was given to English?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What are the demands of the vernacular and classical teachers which the Government has been considering sympathetically for a very long time?

Minister : The demands relate to their salaries and grades.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government accepted the principle of raising their grades and salaries?

Minister : Steps are being taken to benefit them.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Has the Government framed such a policy by virtue of which these teachers are to have improved status and salaries?

Minister : Their status is that of the 'masters' but they get a lower start in comparison with English teachers.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : What I ask is whether any new policy has been adopted by Government; and if so, will it result in some promotions and better emoluments for these teachers?

Minister : They will get some facilities from April.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that a deputation met the hon. Minister about 4 days ago and he promised that the classical and vernacular teachers will be given a minimum salary of Rs. 70 p.m.?

Minister : This was a proposal put before me and I said that it would be considered.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : You promised.

Minister : You are telling a lie.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, the hon. Minister has used the word 'lie.' Is it parliamentary?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not.

Some hon. Members : It was only a side remark.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, can an unparliamentary side remark be made?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I did not hear.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the Government consider the question of paying the same salary to S. V. teachers who have to undergo a course of 3 years training as is paid to the J. A. V. teachers who put in two years for training after their Matriculation?

Minister : We shall certainly think over this proposal.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

DESHMUKH AWARD.

* 2012. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the estimated amount to be received by Punjab under the Deshmukh award in the current year?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Deshmukh award does not apply to the distribution for 1949-50.

The amount estimated to be received by the Punjab under the Deshmukh award during 1950-51 is Rs. 2,59,99,000/- as shown on page 6 of the abstract in the budget volume.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know the method adopted by the Government in arriving at this estimate?

Chief Minister : An estimate of the expected income is received from the Government of India and its 5.25 per cent is the share of this State.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY 23, MARCH AND THURSDAY 30th MARCH 1950.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I move...

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, 23rd March 1950, and Thursday, 30th March 1950,

Sir, in commending this motion for the acceptance of the House, I beg to submit that the agenda before us is very heavy and some hon. Members have expressed a desire that the business of the House should be completed

as early as possible. Thursday, the 23rd March has already been allotted for Budget and my submission is that Thursday, the 30th March also may be utilised for transacting Government business.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 23rd March 1950, and Thursday, 30th March 1950.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural.) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Government have on several occasions brought motions for suspension of the Rule requiring non-official business to be transacted on Thursday. During the course of the discussion on the Resolution of thanks moved after His Excellency the Governor's address, it must have been noticed that there is great discontentment in the public with regard to the present administration. There are many defects and short-comings in the administration and it is essential that private Members should have the right to point out these by moving resolutions. Already a number of Members have given notices of their intention to move Bills and Resolutions. The Select Committee to which Shrimati Sita Devi's Bill was referred has submitted its report and there are notices for other Resolutions also. How much work is there before the House for transacting which the Government wishes to usurp non-official days? The motions of the kind moved by the hon. Chief Minister are intended to suppress the ordinary rights of Members so that their Resolutions or Bills might not be passed. In this connection I wish to point out that this Assembly meets for not more than one month in a year. If Saturdays, Sundays and other holidays on which the Assembly does not meet are deducted, the number of meetings does not exceed twenty-five. In view of this, it would be befooling the House to say that the Government wishes to finish the business on the Agenda by taking over non-official days. It is our duty to sit for six months or even eight months in a year to transact the necessary business. The public has entrusted us with the performance of certain responsibilities and it is our duty to discharge them faithfully. If we do not raise our voice against the attempt made at depriving the hon. Members of their right of non-official business on Thursdays, we shall be failing in our duty. What will happen if the non-official days are not taken away? The Government feels that on non-official days the Members would be able to voice the grievances of the public. One can speak about a few selected subjects only during the discussion on demands for grants. Difficulties of the public can be placed before the Government on non-official days only. If the motion moved by the hon. Chief Minister is carried Shrimati Sita Devi's Bill will not be passed during the current Session with the result that the present Assembly may not be able to pass it at all. For these reasons I feel that the hon. Members must have the right to move their Bills and Resolutions on the days reserved for non-official business. I have come to know that my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sunder Singh has also given notice of a Bill and it has been got printed. Other hon. Members also have given notices of Bills and Resolutions. The Constitution has given us a very valuable right of moving Bills and Resolutions and I request the Government not to snatch away this right. If the present motion is carried, we will be deprived of this right. It would be a great injustice to the hon. Members and the general public. I, therefore, oppose this motion.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, you being an old parliamentarian would perhaps remember that when the hon. Dr,

[Ch. Suraj Mal]

Gopi Chand Bhargava used to be the Leader of the Opposition, he used to strongly oppose any attempt made by the Government to deprive the Members of the non-official days. He used to say that by doing so the Government would be depriving the Members of their valuable right. (*Some hon. Members* : What used to be hon. Member's views at that time ?) I am sorry that while at that time he used to voice the public opinion with great force and acted as a custodian of their rights, he wishes to take away the same right now. I request him to realise the feelings of the Opposition and the general public in this matter and not to deprive private Members of their right to move non-official Resolutions and Bills, which also contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the State.

The hon. Chief Minister has not given any cogent reasons for suspending this rule. This motion is, therefore, quite uncalled for. If the Government has got too much work, it can get the session extended by a day or two. The Chief Minister has said that some Members have expressed the desire to finish the session earlier. But I am sure no hon. Member has conveyed such a desire in writing to him. It is a different thing if the Government cannot face the criticism of the hon. Members and wants to send them home as early as possible. With these words, I oppose this motion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I shall add two more points to those already made out by my hon. friends Chaudhri Suraj Mal and Sardar Bachan Singh. When this session was called, the Government knew as to how much work it had before it. We complained that the time allowed for discussion on the Budget was inadequate. We also issued a statement in this connection. The Assembly, therefore, met on the 6th March instead of meeting on the 15th March as was being proposed. If there had been any emergency, we would not have opposed this motion realising our responsibility. But now all of a sudden, it has been brought before the House without ascribing any reason for so doing. It is perhaps a whim of somebody. It is a common talk in Simla that things are done on the basis of astrology.

Mr. Speaker : No reflection, please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I withdraw, Sir. I am not concerned if a person in his private capacity, acts on the advice of an astrologer.

Mr. Speaker : I would again ask the hon. Member not to make any reflection. At the same time, all this is irrelevant to the question before the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; The way in which this motion has been suddenly brought before the House creates doubts in our minds. We are led to think that the democratic system of Government is being reduced to a farce. To bring such a motion without sufficient reasons is to suppress legitimate opposition. There was a time when our present hon. Chief Minister was the Leader of Opposition and he fought for transacting the business according to rules. During those days, the hon. Members received daily allowance also. But now they get fixed allowance. The hon. Members who want to go home can do so. But those who want to work for the money that they receive should not be denied the opportunity to do so. They feel that administration should be improved.

Secondly, it is our experience that the Bills hurriedly passed by the House in the absence of proper Opposition have been very defective. Consequently, they had to be amended over and over again. I don't know of any emergency for which the session should be finished earlier. I hope that the Leader of the House, without taking into consideration his votes, would

withdraw this motion as the non-official day should not be utilized for Government business.

I may here point out that two very important resolutions were passed in the previous sessions on the days meant for non-official business. One of the Resolutions was regarding the consolidation of land holdings; the other was regarding the registration of Voids. Although the latter was withdrawn on the assurance of the Chief Minister, yet it was followed shortly afterwards by a Bill on the subject. It is quite obvious that much good work was done on days meant for non-official business in the past. If the Government cannot bring any useful measure before the House, it should at least not take from us the non-official day. I would therefore request the Leader of the House to withdraw this motion without bringing in any notions of prestige because it is against public interest.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, three hon. Members have opposed the motion now before the House.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : On a point of order, Sir. The demand that is to be discussed to-day is very important.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is for the hon. Members to consider that.

An hon. Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I am not surprised to see that some of the hon. Members have opposed this motion. Yet I must say that their reasons are without any force. Mehta Ranbir Singh has said that much good work had been done on days meant for non-official business in the past. I wish to remind the hon. Members that sometimes when it becomes unavoidably necessary to take a non-official day for transacting official business it has been done. This step was only taken in the past when it became extremely necessary to do so. This time also the step has been taken because it has been felt that due to certain reasons it is necessary to do so. On a non-official day usually up to ten Resolutions and Bills are ballotted under the rules. On the last non-official day, however, there were only three Resolutions of which notices were given. This shows how much interest was evinced by those who criticise us for taking non-official days for official work. Whenever any notices for private business are received, the Government generally agrees to transact it. For Government business, the budget session is necessarily called once in a year. Now under the new Constitution the Governor shall call two sessions.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : That is obligatory.

Chief Minister : I thank the hon. Member for that. I know that it is obligatory and I am putting this argument before the House. Sir, I was saying that the sessions are called for transacting Government business. But still non-official business is given adequate time; more so because under the new Constitution two sessions are obligatory as I have already stated. But the interest that the critics take in public affairs has been amply proved by the fact that on the sixteenth, only three resolutions were ballotted out of which one has been passed. Another is under consideration of the House and the third could not be taken up on the sixteenth. I had a talk with the movers

[Chief Minister]

of the resolutions. To Seth Ganga Saran, in whose name stands the important resolution of approaching the Government of India in the matter of compensation to be given to the refugees, I have promised two hours after 6--30 P.M. on some official day, if necessary. Similarly Shrimati Sita Devi will also have some time on a day reserved for official business. Anyhow we wish to have full discussion on the Budget upto 31st March. Government business should be transacted completely, and if we have to go beyond 31st March we will gladly do so. But some of the hon. Members have told me that they wished to go back to their districts in order to participate in Congress and Panchayat elections which are going to be held in the first week of April. We have, therefore, considered that the heavy official agenda that still awaits us should be disposed of by using non-official days. It was not a question of doing injustice to private Members. We wish to work. We desire that the Bills that are before the House should be fully discussed. Those who stand near the Scandal Point and talk that we don't wish to work are not doing any service to the people. We have as a matter of fact, taken only two non-official days for official business. If the session is prolonged beyond 31st March, all Thursdays would be utilized for non-official business. I would appeal to the House that this resolution may be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Rule 23 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government Business be transacted on Thursday, the 23rd March 1950, and Thursday, the 30th March 1950.

(Sardar Bachan Singh claimed a division)

Mr. Speaker : Since in my opinion a division has been claimed unnecessarily, I would adopt the other method.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I hope that this rule will not always be interpreted like this.

Chief Minister : To say that "the Speaker shall always interpret the rule like this" is unparliamentary inasmuch as it tantamounts to challenging the ruling of the Speaker. I suggest, Sir, that the hon. Member should be asked to withdraw these words.

Mr. Speaker : When I find that a division has been claimed unnecessarily, it is up to me to follow the procedure laid down in the Rules.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it." This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those members who supported the claim for Division declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

AMENDMENTS AND NEW RULES TO PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

Minister for Education ; (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : I lay on the table the Amendments effected in and the new rules added to the Punjab Motor Vehicle Rules, 1940.

Demands For Grants. MISCELLANEOUS.

Minister For Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,51,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Miscellaneous.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

✓ That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,51,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Miscellaneous.

✓ If the policy of the Government underlying Rehabilitation is to be discussed, it would be better if the cut motion standing in the name of Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is moved.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, the demand before the House is 'Miscellaneous' and under the rules there is nothing to preclude hon. Members from discussing other items in that demand and the discussion should not be limited to Rehabilitation only.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I can have no objection if that be the wish of the House. There are more than 20 items in this demand and if you want to discuss all of them it makes no difference to me, but as it has been decided between the parties that only the item of Rehabilitation will be discussed, I call upon Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt to move his cut motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : We were not consulted.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : According to the Rules when a particular Demand is moved it is open to the Members to discuss any or all the items underlying that demand—there may be 20 items or there may be 100 items that does not matter. The discussion cannot be restricted to only one item.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I leave it to the House to consider whether they want to discuss Rehabilitation only or other items as well. As far as I am aware it was as a result of party arrangement that it was decided to discuss Rehabilitation only.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the question of any arrangement having been arrived at does not arise. We must follow the procedure laid down in the Rules.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have no objection.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I submit that my cut motion should have preference as it is on the Demand as a whole and my intention is to discuss the policy of the Government underlying this Demand. Next comes the cut motion given notice of by Sardar Kabul Singh.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member were to look at the Budget, he will find that under this Demand there are twenty or twenty-five items. Therefore, there cannot be one policy of the Government which can be discussed. In that case it would be very difficult to discuss all these points at a time. For that reason, I would suggest, that the cut motion on Rehabilitation should be moved and then the hon. Members can discuss anything under the Demand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. The attitude of the Chair on such occasions has always been to allow that cut motion to be moved first which covered the widest possible ground and was very comprehensive so that hon. Members may be free to discuss any item upon which they want to lay stress. Now the Chair has made a departure from that ruling and has taken up the reverse attitude. It is permitting a cut motion to be moved which is of a limited nature and restricts the scope of discussion on the demand under consideration. Since I wish that no wrong precedents be set up in this House, I would request the Chair to revise its decision and allow the previous ruling to stand.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Even when a cut motion on an item - Rehabilitation in this case, has been moved you have a right to discuss the Demand as a whole.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then it means that the hon. Members will have to restrict their discussion according to the wish of the hon. Speaker and it depends upon him to allow a cut motion of limited scope or of the widest scope. I think it is not befitting the dignity of the House or the Chair if such a precedent is created.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If you do not want that rehabilitation should be discussed, I can ask a cut motion on the Demand as a whole to be moved. In that case instead of discussing the question of rehabilitation the Demand as a whole would be discussed. Under this Demand there are about 25 items and it is quite clear that there cannot be one policy which can be discussed. For example, if the Demand to be discussed is 'Education' then you can discuss the policy of the Government relating to education but under this Demand the scope of discussion would be very wide with the result that the special item 'Rehabilitation' would not be properly and thoroughly discussed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Why not? Those hon. Members who want to discuss 'rehabilitation' can discuss it and others who want to say anything on any other item will also get a chance.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, if I had been given a chance to speak earlier all these objections would not have cropped up. Mine was the first cut motion that was handed over in the office and it should, therefore, receive priority. The objections raised on the floor of the House are not valid.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, in my view cut motion No. 9 would be the most appropriate as there are more than one policies covered by the Demand.

(Mr. Speaker called upon Chaudhri Sunder Singh to move his motion but Chaudhri Sunder Singh was not in his seat. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha was then called to move his cut motion.)

Sardar Ajit Singh : My cut motion which stands at No. 3 on the list, bears close relation to the Rehabilitation Demand.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** You can discuss that also when you speak.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Why should I not be allowed to move it first?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Simply because it is not on the Demand as a whole but raises a special point only.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, may I enquire from you as to what is the procedure?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** According to the Rules, the procedure is that a cut motion on an item shall be taken up first but all along we were following the procedure of taking up a cut motion to the Demand as a whole and discussing the policy of the Government in respect of that Demand; for that reason I have decided to follow the same precedent. We should have a cut motion on the demand as a whole and then any hon. Member might say anything relating to that Demand.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, according to the decision of the party, to-day is reserved for the discussion of Rehabilitation Department.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I wanted that to be discussed but I find that other Members do not agree.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : In view of the importance of the Demand, I propose that there should be a time limit on the speeches.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** As a large number of speakers are likely to take part in the debate I shall give 15 minutes to the mover and 10 minutes each to other Members participating in the debate.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, these points are controverted everyday and I would suggest that a uniform policy may be followed in all cases. We discussed the point even yesterday as to which cut motion should be moved and today also the same thing has been discussed. The cut motion of Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha, which you have allowed to be moved, says that the Demand be reduced by Rs. 1000/-, that I submit is ridiculous :—

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is a misprint.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Demand No. 33 is 'Miscellaneous' and it consists of so many contradictory items. If you see the budget you will find that under this miscellaneous demand various matters come. There cannot be one policy that can be discussed while discussing this cut motion. If this motion is moved it will appear absolutely ridiculous. I ask what is the general policy underlying the Miscellaneous Demand ?

Rehabilitation.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I move :—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Sir, I do not think, I can speak on all the items concerning this Demand within 15 minutes. I would therefore, confine my remarks to the Relief and Rehabilitation Department. I would like to say a few words about those of my refugee brethren who have been reduced to poverty and misery on account of the partition of the Punjab. My hon. Friends know it full well that our refugee brethren who were living in peace and plenty before the partition are at present hard hit in this post-partitioned province—now the State of Punjab. Here I cannot do without saying this that only those refugees have succeeded in rehabilitating themselves who happened to be the relatives of the high officials of the Government in general and other officers of the department in particular and who got their things done by greasing the palms of the officers of the department. Such persons were benefited to a great extent. There is yet another class of persons who have been benefited to a great extent. They are very clever people. They resorted to threats and intimidations. Sometimes so much pressure is brought to bear upon the officers by them that the officers are forced to act according to their instructions. This type of people often resort to different tactics.

Corruption is prevalent in this department to such an extent that it is not possible to get any work done without greasing the palms of the officers. Those of our refugee brethren who cannot afford to pay bribes to the officers are really at a loss to know what to do. These poor refugees who have to travel long distances to reach Jullundur simply to follow their cases have to return to their villages disappointed. Sometimes they do not have any money even to pay for their return journey. Under the circumstances it will not be incorrect to call this department a "Golmal" department as no substantial work seems to have been done by it. It has been said that people are quite satisfied with the present Ministry. Here I am reminded of a story. Once there lived a rich person who used to take a seer of milk regularly at bed time. He had engaged a servant who used to purchase one seer of milk for him daily. This servant instead of getting one seer at the rate of annas -8/- used to get 3 *paoos* of milk and add one *pao* of water and thus make a saving of annas -2/-. Some gentleman came to know about the

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

mischievous resorted to by the servant and informed his master accordingly. On hearing this the rich person engaged another servant to keep a watch over the old servant so that he may not get any chance to add any water to it. The new servant asked the old servant to pay him his share. They decided to purchase half a seer of milk and add half a seer of water to it. In this way they went on making money for sometime till their master came to know about it. He then appointed another servant to keep watch over the doings of the other two servants. This new servant also proved to be the chip of the same block. He joined hands with them in purchasing only one *pao* instead of one seer of milk and adding three *paos* of water to it. Their master was under the impression that the appointment of another servant would not enable the other two servants to add any water to his milk. These three servants also went on making some money till their master came to know about their mischief. This time, he thought it fit to engage another servant whom he thought to be very strict and honest. He also joined hands with the other servants in making whatever little money that could be possible in this bargain. He suggested to them to take equal share of annas -/2/- which in other words meant that milk was not to be purchased at all. The first three servants were at a loss to know as to how it could be possible to purchase any quantity of milk after distributing the full price of milk among four persons. The new servant who was very clever came to their rescue and suggested them a way out and they were successful in their very first attempt. Instead of purchasing any milk they got some cream and while their master was fast asleep they rubbed some of it on his moustaches. When he woke up in the morning he called his servants and asked them why he was not given any milk the previous night. The clever servant replied that he had already had his milk and that if he was not satisfied with his reply he could look into the mirror and see for himself whether or not he had taken any milk.

Further, His Excellency the Governor has pointed out in the course of his Address that law and order prevails in our State and that corruption has already been eradicated. He has also pointed out that no complaints whatsoever are received by the Government to this effect. Perhaps he is unmindful of this fact that the complainants are being oppressed. It will not be out of place to mention here that even the peons who before the partition were pulling on well and were satisfied with a few annas when asked to do a certain thing cannot be satisfied these days even if they are paid Rs. 10/- to do a petty job.

Sir, I have seen that in many cases when any work is got done on contract basis by the Government, the contractors charge for 50 labourers while the work has actually been done by one man. Apart from this, I would bring it to the notice of the Government that the displaced persons are now in a miserable plight and anxiety is writ large on their faces. Whatever little money they had brought with them after the partition has been spent in giving bribes to officers in connection with the allotment of land. They are almost penniless and have been reduced to abject straits. Those people who behaved like gentlemen and depended upon Government machinery for their rehabilitation have suffered and those who would not shirk from action and continued making complaints to the Financial Commissioner have succeeded in getting allotment of land in their favour. For example, R. B. Lala Gopal Das son of the late Lala Ram Saran Das, a well-known landlord of Lahore sometime back made an application to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, for allotment of a house but in reply he was asked by the district authorities to show what right or interest he had in Amritsar. I wonder that a person of such a high status and position who owned palatial

buildings in Lahore and whose annual budget used to be no less than the budget of any State should be asked to show what right or interest he had in a town in free India. He possessed many cars before the partition and some-time back when he applied for the supply of six gallons of petrol for going to Kangra, his request was dismissed on the ground that train service was available up to Kangra. On being refused, he personally met the Regional Transport Authority and managed to get a permit for petrol. It is most deplorable that during this regime it is not possible to get any work done without greasing the palms of Government officers. The other noticeable feature which we find in our Legislative Assembly is that whenever discussion on any important item on the agenda is going on, the Minister incharge is not often seen in his seat. Their absence is an obvious proof of the fact that they do not attach any importance to the discussion in the House. No action is even taken by the Government on the suggestions that are made by the Members in this House. To cap all, the whole machinery of the Government appears to be defective and the result is that a gentleman often suffers mutely and the hooligans undeniably prosper at others' expense. Let, therefore, the Government recognise that if it does not eliminate this disquieting feature in its day to day administration, this unrest and mounting bitterness among the people will some day excite them to create disturbances in the State. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that the Government should raise the standard of administration and assure the people of the best administration in the State so that the law-abiding citizen may have no cause to feel disgruntled. The Government should see that justice is administered to all in every department. It goes without saying that if the officers of the Government are in the habit of abusing their position and surrendering themselves to corrupt practices, the Ministry will also earn a bad name. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that if the refugees' demand for compensation cannot be accepted in full, it may be accepted to the extent which may be modestly reasonable so that they may see a ray of hope in their gloomy future. Besides this, the Muslims who had deposited their money in the banks should be paid that amount, but I find that our Government is putting them off by saying that this matter is for the Central Government to decide. Similarly, those Muslims who had deposited security money in Cooperative Banks should be given their deposits. Sometime back a person came to me and asked me to help him by speaking to the hon. Minister but I frankly told him that the policy of heads of departments was in fact being worked in the State and the Ministers have little knowledge about it. I would request the Ministers that they should at least go through the debates of the Assembly and see what constructive suggestions have been made by the Members. I know that my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma takes keen interest in asking questions on the floor of the House and subjects the Minister to a volley of supplementaries, but it serves no useful purpose for him except that his name finds mention in newspapers. I recollect that during the regime of Unionist Government when conduct of any Government officer formed the subject matter of any question given notice of by any Member, the Government used to take prompt action against the officer concerned before the Government's reply to that question was read in the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** May I know what the hon. Member is discussing ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Sir, what I want to drive at is that the hon. Ministers do not care to read the Assembly debates. I do not like to take more time of the House and with these remarks I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved :—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

(At this stage. Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing North Eastern Towns, General Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is often said that the Government is playing a joke with refugees and its proof is further visible in the fact that it has allotted only two hours for discussing Government policy regarding rehabilitation of refugees. Before this, three days used to be allotted for such a discussion but now the Government has made a departure from the previous practice and have allowed only two hours for this purpose. I think that no one can do justice to such a vital subject within such a short time and to bring to the notice of the Government all complaints concerning the rehabilitation of refugees. I am, therefore, constrained to remark that the whole Budget discussion is farcical and ridiculous in these circumstances. Normally speaking, the question of rehabilitation can be divided into two parts, one urban rehabilitation, and the other rural rehabilitation. About the urban rehabilitation, Government has itself admitted its failure to do what should or could have been done. It has realized that it is a complex problem as the cost of rehabilitation of lakhs of refugees is going to be immense and it cannot get money from the Indian Government. The Government has utterly failed to rehabilitate urban displaced persons and this it has admitted several times. The Government has been doing false propaganda that the rural rehabilitation has been completed. When the possession of land will be delivered to the allottees in the month of June, the work of rehabilitation of these persons will according to them be complete. His Excellency the Governor and the hon. Chief Minister have both remarked in their speeches that the work of resettlement is within sight of finishing. But I honestly feel that rural rehabilitation is not yet in sight. Though allotment orders have been issued, but I can say without exaggeration that if such allotment of land continues in the State, it is bound to be a complete failure. I may warn the Government that if it is unable to settle this problem of rehabilitation, greatest injury will be done to the Congress and the Punjab will suffer a heavy loss. The 4 P.M. Congress should, therefore, take early steps to rehabilitate these displaced people as early as possible. Sir, I am strongly of the opinion that even the moral rehabilitation scheme is impracticable. As a matter of fact it looks so strange that nobody bothers to understand and realize this fact. I warn this Government that as once remarked by our respected Prime Minister of the Indian Union, a revolution is inevitable if the tiller of the soil is not contented and satisfied. It is not the urbanite who brings about revolutions. It is always the kisan who does it and I am in a position to say that if we don't supply sufficient means of livelihood to him, no Dr. Gopi Chand, Dr. Lehna Singh or for that matter any power can keep him under control. If any persons can befriend him, they are those who do not mean to cling to offices at all costs. At any rate, I have no doubt that the scheme of allotment which is at present being enforced in the Punjab is laying foundations of something cataclysmic which every one of us dreads.

Sir, people who have been given land from two to five acres are to be given a taccavi loan of Rs 300 and who get five to fifteen acres will get a loan of Rs 600. Those having more than fifteen acres are to get an additional loan of Rs 600 for every ten acres. This is the scheme of the taccavi loans. I say that a man who is given a taccavi loan of Rs 300 shall have to main-

tain at least two oxen. The maintenance of one ox, at any rate, these days would cost nothing short of thirty rupees a month. This means that the owner of two oxen shall have to spend sixty rupees a month on their maintenance. Now let us look at the income of the man who has to keep these oxen for sixty rupees a month. According to my computation the owner of one acre cannot earn more than Rs 100 if we keep the present rates of commodities in view and which have to go down under the policy of the Central Government. Sir, if a man earns Rs 100 and spends Rs 60 on oxen, I fail to understand how he would be able to maintain his family. When this is the condition of those possessing three to five acres, God knows what is going to happen to those who possess uneconomic holdings ranging from two marlas to an acre and who are not entitled to any taccavi loans. I cannot help saying that this uneconomic scheme of allotment is a cruel joke with the refugees. According to figure given by the Government itself about 80 percent allottees are those who have been allotted small tracts of land.

Sardar Ajit Singh : This figure is not correct.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It is correct. The Government has itself said that 80 percent allottees are small holders.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I know more than you do.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Probably the hon. Member is aware of only those who were big landlords in West Pakistan and have managed to get considerable areas here in this State as well. Anyhow, I have no mind to discuss them. But supposing for a moment that the figure is not correct, my argument is not affected. Even if we consider the second category of men who are to get Rs 600 by way of taccavi loans we will find that they also cannot make their both ends meet. They will have to keep at least four oxen which means an expenditure of Rs 120 a month.

Sir, I shall now discuss the manner of allotment of lands and houses. I find no planning and uniformity in the scheme. In a village where existed about a hundred houses only twenty-five persons have been allotted land and where there were twenty-five houses one hundred persons have been allotted land at that place. I wonder why no survey could be undertaken before allotment was made to avoid this maladjustment. The pity is that this kind of allotment entails great injustice in some cases. Some people have fortunately been given houses by the allotment Committee whereas others will have to build their own and shall get loans for that purpose. This injustice in the case of those who will have to suffer the burden of loans could have easily been avoided if a proper survey of lands and houses had been made and a haphazard allotment had not taken place. Another thing which the Government has done is this that the houses abandoned by the zamindars have been allotted to zamindars and those belonging to evacuee Kamins have been allotted to refugee Kamins. Similarly, the shopkeepers have been allotted houses abandoned by evacuee shopkeepers. Nothing, however, has been done for two important sections of the public. Has any thing been done for tenants or Harijans? Their number is very large but no provision has been made for them. There is already a great deal of agitation among the tenants of the State and members of the Leftist Parties are working among them. It is really very sad that no houses have been allotted to lakhs of Harijans who have come here as displaced persons.

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt]

How are they to spend their lives without any shelter ? While I am speaking about such an important subject, I am sorry to note that several Members are talking with one another. It should be remembered that unless something is done immediately, the present condition may result in a revolution in the State. Some of my hon. Friends are laughing because they appear to be unconcerned with these things. They do not care whether some persons have homes to live in or not. I am sorry to note that even the Minister concerned is smiling. If the Members of the Government are not in a serious mood when such an important subject is under discussion, I feel that either the Minister is not equal to the task perhaps or nobody is equal to task or the task is too great. I do not intend to make an attack on the Ministry or any other hon. Member of this House.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member has already spoken for more than ten minutes.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Just look at the mentality of some of the hon. Members of this House who are not prepared to hear about the plight of displaced persons. My hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh says that the time of the House is being wasted and that other members should be allowed to speak.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : No personal explanation.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member has great sympathy for the displaced persons and is sincere in his views but.....

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I don't give way. The hon. Member can make his personal explanation in his own time.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : This is no point of order.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The hon. Member should not be given more time as he is not acquainted with the problem and is speaking at random.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : When I point out the difficulties of tenants, my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh feels perturbed because he is a representative of the landlords. He says that a person who has been a member of the Congress and has been studying agrarian politics the whole of his life is not acquainted with these matters and that the landlords know more about these. Nobody can contest the fact that thousands of persons are without shelter. They have been allotted no houses so far. Another thing which cannot be denied by anybody is this that thousands of persons have not been given loans for building houses. According to the notification by the Government only rich landlords will be able to get money for constructing houses by mortgaging their lands. How can those persons who have no lands obtain money ? Nobody helps these persons. Neither the Government nor the society comes to their aid. As a result of it they will be landless and homeless.

Then, Sir, it is said by the Government that the task of agricultural settlement has been completed. I wish to point out that the Government

has completely failed in this task. Nothing has been done about urban property. The hon. Chief Minister said in the course of his speech the other day that the Government proposed to give compensation. Several statements were issued and schemes were prepared. What has been done about the claims which we were asked to submit more than two years back? The Government has told us that the claims would be examined and compensation paid with respect to urban property, but where is the provision for it in the Budget? This is the most important point I put before the House. If the Government really propose to give compensation, why has no provision been made in the Budget?

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, out of all the question which have been discussed in this House during the current Budget session, the one which we are now discussing is the most important. Only those persons can form an idea of the discontentment prevailing in the State on the subject of rehabilitation who are either themselves displaced persons or have worked amongst them. How can those who have comfortable houses fitted with electric heaters realise the lot of displaced persons? Several schemes have been prepared on paper during the last three years and each of these excelled the previous ones but nothing practical has been done. Our Financial Commissioner and Director General are very efficient in preparing such schemes. A number of meetings have been held at Simla and Jullundur and lakhs of rupees have been spent as travelling allowance but the plight of displaced persons has not improved in any way. What has been the result of spending crores of rupees in this connection?

Firstly, I wish to refer to rural allotment. The hon. Minister would say that it has been completed. I wish to point out that after two and a half years three lakhs of allotment chits were issued. Two lakh objections have been received with respect to these allotment orders. These relate to the fact that in the matter of allotment son has been separated from father brother from brother, widow from her relatives and the residents of the same place have been allotted lands which are hundreds of miles apart. Now it is being said that the land allotment is complete and no more applications would be received. But I would like to submit that for the refugees it is not yet over. They will now file appeals. They would continue to go from Office to Office and place to place all their lives. At one time, they went to Simla and at another to Jullundur and now they are called upon to file appeals. Is this the allotment that has been done? And the Government wants to increase the food production. I wonder how this can be done without settling the refugees permanently at their places. I had an opportunity of working for two months as a member of the Advisory Board at Jullundur. I was engaged on the work of rehabilitation of widows. I found that not much had been done.

Now I advert to the work of urban rehabilitation. The Government has offered to give mud huts to those people who left behind in Pakistan property worth lakhs of rupees. I don't know what is the idea of the Government behind the construction of these huts? Are they meant for permanent residence of the people or only for the time being. These mud huts have no lighting or ventilation arrangements. Again, the rents of evacuee houses were at first reduced by 35 percent. But now they have again been enhanced. I wonder what this Government

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

is doing : Is it joking with the refugees ? They have to undergo a lot of hardship to get a house. At first applications are made ; then bribes are given to get a house allotted. If at all the refugees manage to get houses, they have to pay high rents. Only the other day, I was mobbed by women at Jullundur, who complained of enhanced rents. When we go down after the session what would not the people say against us ? Will the Government make enquiries against those high Officers who managed to get low rents fixed for the houses occupied by them. I know this will not be done because the high-ups cannot be touched. There is scarcity of houses in the cities and whatever are available are in possession of local persons. When this fact is brought to the notice of the Government, it is said that necessary action will be taken. But after wards no action is taken. I know that the garden attached to a bungalow at Jullundur was allotted to a displaced person of Jhang District, and he paid even Rs. 400/- in advance- yet he has not been given possession of the garden. This demand of Rs 2 crores, I know, would be passed. Even if it were more than that, it would be passed. But I would like to say that it is not going to be spent on the rehabilitation of refugees. There are various Centres under the Department of Industries, such as vocational Training Centres, Work Centres etc. ; and there are other Centres under the Rehabilitation Department. If all these schemes are put under the charge of one Department, a lot of waste can be avoided. The scheme of vocational training is only a farce ; it serves no useful purpose. The trainees do not learn anything in six months. I know of training Centres for women. They are trained in three crafts, namely, tailoring, spinning and embroidery. But in six months they do not acquire proficiency even in a single craft. This thing can be verified from the two Homes, namely, Sew a Sadhan Ashram and Widow Home at Jullundur. The widows who have been supplied sewing machines do not know how to use them. What is required is to form Cooperative societies of widows after proper training and then to supply them work such as that of the military and their children should be educated at Government expense. But this is not being done although crores of rupees are being spent. Again, Sir, the spinning Centres are also a farce. They are opened only to provide jobs to certain persons. In Jullundur, I know lakhs of rupees are spent on the spinning centre yet there has been no sale of the cloth produced at this centre. When I enquired about the cause, I was told that they had to pay high wages to the displaced persons. The fact, however, is that not more than 5 percent of the people in that centre are displaced women.

Sir, another matter on which money is spent without any use is opening of such shops as the one at Jullundur on the G. T. Road. If anyone happens to go there he will find beautiful specimens of cloth and other articles. My submission is that crores of rupees at the disposal of Rehabilitation Department are not spent in a proper manner. I do not wish to take much of the time of the House. But I would like to lay emphasis on the point that constructive and solid work should be done so that the poor among the refugees may derive benefit from it. In this connection, it will not be out of place to mention that Victoria Diamond Jubilee Training Institute which was such a useful institute has not so far been enabled to function. A building was allotted at Jullundur for this purpose. But later on some influential person got it allotted to himself. If such is the state of affairs, in my opinion, the government cannot become a popular Government in spite of the fact that it may try to increase the amount of publicity in its favour and that it may ask a large number of newspapers to do propaganda for making it popular. The only way to win popularity and goodwill of the people at large is to tackle the problem of refugees to their satisfaction and to rehabi-

litate them speedily. Otherwise, I am afraid in spite of various Safety Acts and such other measures the masses will lose confidence in the Government and it will not be able to control the situation. The problem of refugees is full of dangerous potentialities. We should learn a lesson from our neighbouring countries like China. The Government cannot rule merely by the use of its physical force. It has to win the hearts of people. For this it should, in the first place, take its capital to the plains. If it does not do so the Government cannot have the support of the people. It may go to-day or tomorrow.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-member, West Punjab, Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, before the House takes any decision on this Demand, I wish to say one or two things. The first thing which I wish to state is in connection with the allotment of lands to the displaced persons. As the House must be aware three lakh acres of muslim evacuee land is mortgaged with the Hindus and Sikhs. This should be redeemed. For the share that may become necessary to be given to such Hindus and Sikhs the government should devise other means. This land should be given to displaced persons. That is the only right thing to do. If it could not be done in the past due to one reason or the other, steps should now be taken to do so.

The second thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is the condition of those persons who have come from the villages of West Punjab and who were not the owners of the land there but were owners of houses only. The rules which are going to be enforced now seem to make no provision with regard to such persons. In my opinion, these tenants and the backward classes should be provided houses in the rural areas. At the time of temporary allotments these persons were given lands as well as houses. Now that no land is intended to be allotted to such persons I would appeal to this Government to see that they should have at least housing accommodation for their families. On this question the existing rules should be reconsidered and modified accordingly.

Another problem upon whose solution depends the maintenance of peace and security is the question of giving compensation to the refugees. In this connection, I will speak later on because the hon. Chief Minister has declared that discussion on this problem will take place on some other day.

Another question is that of making laws concerning tenants. It would be better if such legislation is deferred for some months as at this stage such laws will create some complications in the matter of getting possessions of such land. So I would suggest that the question of tenancy legislation should be taken up after the allotments are complete.

An important matter without which no progress can be made is that of the permanent settlement of the rural displaced persons. Of course, the Government has done much by making the quasi permanent allotment of lands but this allotment cannot satisfy the kisans completely. These people have doubts in their minds about the permanent character of this allotment. They fear lest they may have to change their lands at a later date. So it is necessary that steps should be taken to bestow ownership of such lands on the farmers. By doing so we can create confidence in the minds of such persons. Without such confidence, the farmers cannot put in their best labour. About the Property Exchange the agreement between both the

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Dominion Governments was arrived at and it will take about six months or a year to solve the problem. But on the part of the Government of India it is quite urgent to give complete ownership to the farmers. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it does not appear to be in a willing mood. But our Government should take immediate steps in this direction. It should be prepared to take the responsibility on its own shoulders. Necessary modifications in the law may be made. The ownership of lands should be given to the people. As long as this is not done, the cultivators will not put their heart in their work and production will suffer. For the satisfaction of the displaced persons, I would appeal to the Government to pay proper attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, I may point out that adequate provision has not been made for helping the displaced persons. I do not blame the Government for this meagre amount because they have not been given any money by the Central Government for this purpose. But they should continue to make every endeavour to rehabilitate the displaced people as soon as possible and judiciously utilise the amount earmarked in the Budget so that whatever help is possible may be made available to them. Government should not relax their efforts in this direction and should devise ways and means for the provision of more money to help them.

Then I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another important matter and that is this. Operations for the consolidation of holdings of land are going to be carried out in our State on a large scale. We understand, rather it is being rumoured, that it is the intention of the Government to consolidate the lands of the zamindars who have already been living here. If this news has any foundation, then it does not find favour with me. I am rather of the opinion that the lands allotted to the refugees should be consolidated forthwith and the expenditure incurred in this connection should be borne by the Rehabilitation Department. I may point out that zamindars coming from the districts of Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Sargodha, Multan, Montgomery etc., are accustomed to possess consolidated lands and it is common knowledge that they had fully developed their lands. Hence if the lands now allotted to them, are consolidated it would create a sense of security in them and they will feel assured that they are the real masters of their lands. Consequently they would put every ounce of their energy to step up production. I would, therefore, impress upon the Government the desirability of taking into hand the work of consolidation of their lands first. But so far as other zamindars are concerned, calculations should be made by the Government for the costs which they would be required to pay for the operations of consolidation of lands. This work should be accomplished at an early date so that they may take to intensive production of foodgrains with satisfaction.

Now I come to the question of grant of loans to the zamindars, who used to get taccavi loans from the Government. Government have considerably reduced the amount of that loan. My gravamen against the Government in this regard is, that whereas they have established a Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to finance the urban displaced persons, they have not made any adequate arrangements for advancing loans to the rural displaced persons for purposes of rehabilitating themselves. I understand refugee companies can receive loans to the tune of fifty thousand rupees and individual refugees can get several thousand rupees as loans but the zamindar's taccavi loan ranges from 250/ to 2000 rupees. I know of certain Newspaper owners, who did not possess any press of their own in the West Punjab and always

wrote against the Government are now very well off because they have been granted big loans to rehabilitate themselves. The invidious treatment that is being meted out to the zamindars should be done away with. I think even-handed justice should be administered to all in the matter of grant of loans to the refugees. One class of refugees should not receive preferential treatment over the other in this matter. Those zamindars who possess 250 acres of land do not find any substantial help from this paltry sum of Rs. 250 granted to them as a taccavi loan. I am of the opinion that arrangements should be made to advance them larger taccavi loans so that they could fully develop their lands.

Now I come to another point. I want that now Government should make a departure from its policy of utilising lands left by the Muslim evacuees for one purpose or the other. For instance, land is being acquired by the Government for building new townships. I should cry halt to this policy. I, therefore suggest that in future any land belonging to Muslim evacuees should be distributed among the refugees and not utilised by the Government themselves.

Then, there is one more point which deserves the serious attention of the Government. Ordinarily, refugees are not given the same amount of representation on the Committees which are formed for the allotment of houses or grant of loans to the refugees. Sometimes almost all the non-refugee members find a place in them and the representatives of refugees who can feel for the displaced persons are left out. Some time back, they raised a hue and cry and as a result of this, here and there a refugee member was added to such committees. This does not serve the purpose unless the refugees get full representation in such committees because they and they alone can safeguard the interests of displaced persons and realise their difficulties. Previously, an argument was advanced that the refugees did not know certain matters and were not fully conversant with the tasks which these committees were required to perform. Now when the refugees have become fully acquainted with all matters of rehabilitation, I request that in future only refugee members should be asked to serve on these committees. Of course, there is no bar to the appointment of experts to such committees, if it is considered necessary to avail of their services in certain matters. I feel that only in this way these Committees can be a success.

Then I would draw the attention of the Government to a news which has come in the newspapers. I am not aware how far that is correct. It has been stated therein that the right of appeal by the blood relations of an allottee in regard to his lands, has been withdrawn by the Government. I request that so far rules and regulations which have been framed on the subject permit of appeals on all matters connected with the land. I feel that no departure should be made from them otherwise an injustice that has been done under this order would become permanent. I, therefore, request that the right of appeal should not be taken away from the blood relations of an allottee about his land.

In the end, I would point out that Government has not been paying the same amount of attention to the rehabilitation of urban refugees, as is being done in the case of rural refugees. I request that the urban rehabilitation work should be carried out by the officers concerned with greater vigour than before. With these words I close my remarks,

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Rehabilitation is no longer amenable to any rules or regulations. It would be no exaggeration if I say that this is a department which observes no law. During the last two and a half years, many a scheme regarding the allotment of lands was prepared but none came to fruition and this is known to every body. Then this Department confers lots of favours on persons who are its favourites. I may point out that right from Deputy Commissioner down to the petty official of this department every one takes undue advantage of his powers and indulges in nepotism and tries to benefit his friends or relations by giving them a share of the Muslim evacuee property. This evil is rampant everywhere, whether it is Ludhana, Jullundur or Amritsar. It is possible that Simla may be immune from this infection. But it is a fact that nowhere any law is being observed with regard to this matter. I may therefore, sound a note of warning to the Government that it is bound to be liquidated any time, if it fails to observe the very laws framed by it. I am of the opinion that refugees and refugees alone are entitled to the use of evacuee property and none else. Besides, if the Government has a mind to rule the people, it should see that no body infringes rules and regulations framed by it. It should eschew indulging in favouritism which is a negation of democracy. It pains me to see that palatial bungalows where refugees could be given a shelter, have been allotted to certain persons who have already been residing in India, and the rules concerning surrender of extra or unrequired accommodation for housing refugees, have been thrown to the winds. Then undue favouritism or concession is shown in the matter of allotment of houses to the refugees. The officers allot big houses to their refugee friends and charge rent much less than what it should be under the rules. I would, therefore, suggest to Government that if it wants to earn a good name for itself, then it should administer even-handed justice to one and all. It should also see that its officers no longer indulge in favouritism. Further I wish to point out that those Muslim landlords, who have not gone to Pakistan and are at present living in the districts of Karnal and Gurgaon, have already been evicted and Government have not taken any steps whatsoever to resettle them on their own lands or by providing land to them at different places. May I know as to what steps the Government has taken to rehabilitate them?

I would like to say a few words about the way allotments of land are being made at present in our State. I am of the opinion that the system of allotment is wholly wrong and defective. Instances in this connection are not wanting. A widow who owned land in West Punjab is allotted land in the District of Ferozepur while land is allotted to her father-in-law in the district of Gurdaspur. Since they were living together, naturally it would have been in the fitness of things if both of them were allotted land at one and the same place or in other words quite adjacent to one another. If the Government had done this, it would have been possible for both the allottees to look after their land more conveniently and in their better interests. As a matter of fact justice demanded that the widow should have been allotted land quite adjacent to her father-in-law's land. In a certain case in village Panasar, District Amritsar, a temporary allottee having 22 acres of land was overflowed simply because he was taken to be a big allottee. It was said about him that "being a big allottee he has been overflowed". On the one hand, we find the Government view that he has been overflowed because of being a big allottee, while on the other we find allottees in possession of as many as 75 acres who should have been overflowed from the temporary allotment not being disturbed. Sir, you

will be surprised to hear that allottees in possession of 22 acres and 40 acres are said to have been overflowed, while those in possession of 105 acres have not been overflowed, though the allotment in both the cases happens to be on temporary basis.

Further, I wish to point out that the administration of the Rehabilitation Department is so defective that nothing is known about the claims which refugees submit from time to time. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Certain refugees who had submitted their claims have received one and the same reply from the Government which states that their "claims have been entered in other districts and are not traceable." May I know if the inability of tracing the claims is not the sufficient proof of inefficiency and failure of the department in the discharge of its duties? It will not be out of place to mention here that the concerned papers regarding these claims have duly been diarized in the particular registers. But in spite of all this, these claims are not traceable. I really fail to understand as to why these claims are not traceable. This is how our refugee brethren are put to a lot of inconvenience by the Department.

Further the land belonging to those Muslim landlords who have gone to Pakistan and which used to be cultivated by Hindu and Sikh tenants, has been allotted to the refugees from West Pakistan. As a result of all this, these poor tenants have been deprived of their livelihood and they have been reduced to poverty and misery. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to give them adequate compensation so that they may be able to earn their livelihood. After all what have these poor people done. I really fail to understand as to why they should be ejected without any rhyme or reason. The pressing need of the hour is that the Government should come to their rescue at this critical hour.

So far as the allotment of houses is concerned, much favour has been shown by the Government without any rhyme or reason. I am really constrained to remark that favouritism is the order of the day in the Rehabilitation Department. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Even in my own Tehsil I brought to the notice of the Government as many as 531 such cases where irregularities were committed and I succeeded in setting these cases right. In this connection, I would like to read out to you the letter which I received from the Director General, Rehabilitation. He writes to say :—

"I assure you that the complaints which you bring to my notice are carefully looked into. Vigilance you have maintained in Land Allotment work in Patli area, is really commendable. You have done a great service to displaced landholders"

But in spite of all this I find that more and more irregularities are being committed by the Department. I am really constrained to remark that there is a person in our Tehsil who has made the Punjab Government in general and some hon. Ministers in particular dance to his tunes. He encourages people to put in as many claims as they like. He even goes to the extent of telling them that he could submit as many claims as he liked according to his own sweet will.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the hon. Member referring to Shri Orara ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : There is yet another instance which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and that is this. Sardar Chanan Singh Orara has submitted a claim of 218 acres. In reply to an unstarred

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question No. 395 it was said that Government had received the record of 72 acres only. There are other instances too where gross irregularities have been committed and where the people have put in wrong claims without caring to respect the law of the land. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to prosecute such persons in Court of Law who have made wrong and exaggerated claims to the Government in respect of their land held in West Pakistan. As a matter of fact, severe punishment 5 P M. should be awarded to the defaulters. One Jagtar Singh, Patwari of village Sur Singh, did not get his pay from 17th July to 28th February, 1949. When I gave a notice of question on this subject, the Government then took action in this behalf. This is how the administration is being carried on by the present Government. Similarly one Pandit Gokul Chand of village Pallu Tehsil Ajnala was suspended in October 1948 and then got himself reemployed in the Rehabilitation Department, Jullundur but he also did not get his pay until 30th November 1949. (*Voices.* He was under suspension). I would ask why the Government exacted work from him without giving him salary when he was already under suspension.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : (Jullundur Division, Landholders) Mr. Speaker, whenever I make any reference to the refugees or rehabilitation, my mind goes back to the days prior to the partition of the country when we people were living in peace and prosperity and were men of means and status and had considerable amount of influence in official and non-official circles. Now Sir, after the 15th of August, 1947, when we crossed the border we entered this country as strangers, although our motherland, having lost everything behind and now we are named as refugees. Sometimes I wonder whether I am living in the world of dreams or realities. Then I shake off myself and find that I am living in the world of realities. In fact we are having that 'inqalab' for which we were yearning.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : You also yearned for inqalab ?

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : That inqalab for which we were shouting in every public meeting not once but twice, once in the beginning and once in the end, that inqalab for which our children shouted in the streets, is now an accomplished fact. Amidst our miseries and tribulations, there is, however, one silver lining and that is that we have brought in our trail, freedom—freedom for which we were struggling so hard. I think, Sir, it is my duty to express my sense of gratitude to those persons who gave us help and succour when we came over to this side and my heart goes out to the Rehabilitation Department, the Department which is being piloted by Mr. P.N. Thapar, Financial Commissioner. Sir, he is one of us, being a refugee. I may say, Sir, that by his wisdom, statesmanship and hard work, he has very successfully steered the Rehabilitation Department. I must thank him because he has got a warm corner in his heart for us refugees. I also thank Sardar Tarlok Singh for the hard labour he has done to rehabilitate us. Sir, we have passed the first phase of rehabilitation. So far as the rural rehabilitation is concerned, it is almost complete. Now the second phase is about to start and this is about urban resettlement. I would request the Government that they should take that matter in hand speedily and try to finish the work as soon as possible. They should not allot houses and property to anybody except those who have left such property and houses behind in Pakistan. It is most unfair to those unfortunate people that whatever small property has been left by the Muslim evacuees here is being

given to Government officials either for residential accomodation or for office purposes. As soon as quasi permanent allotment is complete, we will have to stay where our lands are allotted. To look after them it is very essential that we should have houses there.

Another point to which I would like to make a reference is with regard to rents that are being collected by the Government for the property left by Muslims. I would urge upon the Government to distribute that money among those displaced persons who have left property in Pakistan. It should be done as speedily as possible before it is too late. In this connection I am reminded of the story of the well known poet Firdausi. He wrote his "Shahnama" in the praise of Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi. The Sultan was very much pleased and asked Firdausi what he wanted as his reward. Firdausi demanded one gold coin for every verse but the king declined to give that much. The poet went away disappointed and began to write "Hijav" in which he decried the Sultan. The Sultan hearing this sent the amount required by the poet but as the Sultan's messengers entered into the city where Firdausi lived, his dead body was being carried through the same gate to graveyard. What I mean to illustrate is that something should be done before it is too late, and the unfortunate displaced persons may not share the fate of that poet.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : So you want to become Firdausi and the Minister Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : There is another matter which I want to bring to the notice of the Government. There are a number of civil cases which were pending before the civil courts in the West Punjab before partition. I wonder if Government has taken any steps in regard to those cases. The litigants who have come over here are experiencing great difficulties on that score. It is not possible for them to go to the courts in West Punjab to pursue those cases and I suggest that the relevant records should be taken from the Pakistan Government and brought here so that those cases can be pursued further.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Is the hon. Member referring to cases between Muslims and non-Muslims or those between non-Muslims themselves ?

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : I am referring to cases between non-Muslims themselves.

The other point to which I would invite the attention of the Government is in regard to court deposits. There are a number of cases where our displaced brethren have left court deposits in the West Punjab. The Pakistan Government as is clear from its attitude in all such matters are not going to give a single pie to us in spite of the best efforts of the Government of India. I think it is the duty of our Government to pay those deposits to the persons concerned and if that be not possible at least to distribute among them those deposits that have been left by the Muslim evacuees in the courts of our province. As my time is up, with these few remarks, I resume my seat.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-west Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, before I place my own impressions about the rehabilitation work, I may say a few words about some remarks made by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. There is

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no doubt that he is a prominent refugee and has a large heart for other refugees. But today I find a considerable change in him. So far, he had been a representative only of the urbanites but today he has shed some crocodile tears even for us ruralities.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I am a Mohyal agriculturist and a Dutt. I am a Chaudhri while my hon. Friend is a mere Sardar.

Sardar Ajit Singh : My hon. Friend was pleased to say that people with two acres of land formed 80 per cent of the allottees.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I never said that. I said that people having small tracts of land formed 80 per cent of the total number of allottees.

Sardar Ajit Singh : He went on to say that tenants and Harijans were not being provided with houses. I may inform him that Government has decided to establish House Allotment Committees in the villages and that the Harijans and the tenants will be represented on them.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : They have not been given even a single house.

Sardar Ajit Singh : When they have got their representatives in the Committees, I do not follow how they will not get houses. Sir, now I shall give my own impressions. In spite of the great difficulties and obstacles in the way of the government, it has done wonderful work in the field of rural rehabilitation. As a matter of fact I have not got words to adequately praise it. There have been three or four phases of this work. The first was the determination of holdings. Despite the fact that complete records could not be had from Pakistan, Government did everything in its power to solve the problem. Of course, some cases to which reference has been made by my hon. Friend Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann were disputed cases or land rights cases and are still pending. I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge to take immediate action on them to remove unrest among the people who are apprehensive that no land might be allotted to them at all. It would certainly be better if another officer is appointed to help do the needful.

The second phase was that of allocations and allotment. Allocations of districts and villages was so sagaciously made that it is no exaggeration to say that the Government achieved 99 per cent success in this work. The House will recall that at the time of the first permanent allotment, some influential persons through bribe and other uncalled-for practices managed to get lands at places where they were not entitled to get. The Government in a period of about three or four months invited applications from the aggrieved parties and did everything to give them justice.

The third phase was the allotment of Khasra numbers. The Government desired creation of individual holdings in accordance with the scheme which was evolved during the time of my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh. But unfortunately no appreciable success has been achieved in this direction. There were two reasons for this. One was the classification of lands and the other was the classification of the soil. In the old Jama-bandi there were five or six kinds of lands and soil but in the allotment of Khasra numbers

only two or three kinds were to be recognized and this principle has entailed great hardship in getting proper share of Khasra numbers. Consequently, great unrest is prevalent among the people,

The Government promised the people at many stages that they would make equitable distribution of land. I have been telling the Government from the outset that the allotment could not be made on the basis of Khasra numbers. It is a well known fact that no idea can be formed about land without seeing it. There is a common saying that,

ਕਿਸਾ ਏ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਬਰ ਸਰੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ
ਕਿਸਾ ਏ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਬਰ ਸਰੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ

Though the time at the disposal of the Government was short, it did its best under the circumstances. The Government told the people that it would take account of the classification of land at the time of allotment. After grading, the chahi land had to be treated *Barani*, the *Barani* land as *Banjar* and so on. On account of these variations the correct classification of land was not placed before the Resettlement Officers and they could not make allotment on right basis. This has resulted in great unrest among the public.

Ninety percent of allottees are however, satisfied. Now the question of individual holdings arises. I shall request the Government to pay proper attention to this important matter. The Government should be prepared to do justice to those who have suffered in this respect. I learn that it has decided to make changes only in those cases where not less than half the allottees of a certain place, whose land is not less than seventy-five percent of the total land allotted at that particular place, make a request in that behalf. If this information is correct, I express strong opposition to this decision. When the Government decided to make khasrawise allotment, it intended and promised to do justice to the people. If the Government has decided to make correction only in those cases, where at least half the allottees of a certain area apply for it, how shall it be possible for a few persons who have been allotted inferior land, to get their grievances redressed? Unless the allotment is made after examining the land at the spot; it can not be done properly. The Government should make a declaration that it would do justice to every person who had not been allotted proper Khasara Number.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the advance of taccavi loans. There has been no complaint about the advance of taccavi loans and the new scheme adopted by the Government has been highly appreciated. Formerly, these loans were given in cash with the result that in several cases these were not used for purchasing oxen or for construction of houses, for which purposes these were advanced. The system of granting taccavi loans in kind will prove very useful. In spite of the efforts made by the Government, there are about twelve or thirteen lakh acres of land, which cannot be cultivated with ordinary ploughs. I learn with regret that the scheme of purchasing tractors, which the Government proposed to undertake has been given up. If it has been done at the instance of the central Government: it shows their incompetence and ignorance.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) :
Mr. Speaker, I shall refer to only one or two matters in the short time at my disposal. One thing which I wish to point out is that the policy which the Government at first adopted was the right policy. It was in accordance with

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the policy of the Congress and the teachings of Mahatama Gandhi. I am sorry that afterwards that policy was completely abandoned. At first every displaced family who either owned land or were tenants, were allotted ten acres each. Later on, this system was given up and land-lordism which is fast disappearing from all countries of the world and other States in India was again brought into being. This was an occasion when the Government could do away with the inequitable distribution of land. Revolutions had to take place in other countries to achieve this purpose. If the policy first adopted had been carried on, the distinction between big and small land owner could have been abolished. The Government, however, did not avail of this opportunity and reverted to the out-of-date system. In this connection, I wish to quote some figures. There are about thirty lakh acres of and under cultivation in this State. Another ten lakh acres are not under cultivation at present, but if proper effort is made these can be brought under cultivation. This land was at first allotted to four lakh families on the basis of ten acres per family. This decision had resulted in removal of all distinction between big landlord and small landlord. The policy adopted later at the time of making quasi-permanent allotment intended to reestablish the old system. The area of land available in this state was much smaller as compared with that abandoned in Pakistan. The figures I am going to quote will show the manner in which allotment has now been made. If ten acres of land had been given to each family, four lakh families could be provided and all land-holders would have been made equal. As a result of present allotment, about fifty persons have got about 296.5 acres each as against 2,34,707 persons who have been allotted 1.5 acres on the average. In these days of socialism, when there was an opportunity of bringing people to the same level, the Government reverted to the old system which is crumbling down everywhere else.

We see that more than 2½ lakhs of persons have been allotted 1.5 acres per head on an average. How is it possible for the people to do any cultivation on so small a holding as that and how would the Government's scheme of growing more food at all succeed? The Karachi resolution of the Congress is also being ignored. For the last three years, there has been a Congress Government in our State and we know what has been done by it to redeem the past pledges and promises. Fifty persons have been allotted on an average 290.5 acres each. Now what would these people do with that land? 65 persons have been allotted 210 acres each on an average and 200 persons have been given 156 acres each on an average. 442 persons have got 102 acres each on an average while as many as 75248 persons have been allotted only 4.7 acres each on an average. In U. P., Bihar and other states, efforts are being made to give proprietary rights over land to those tenants who have been working as such for ages and ages.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: We are prepared to give up our claim on land if we are given compensation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: If it were in my power I would not let anybody live better than an average man. In respect of land as well as industry, no one should possess more than an average person. The other day our hon. Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru said that the greatest problem of Asia was the problem of land. Our State Government is now committing errors which have been the cause of downfall of the Chinese Nationalist Government. It was due to those mistakes that the people in that country threw out the reactionary Government and introduced a new system of government. In U. P. and Bihar, the Congress Governments are abolishing land-lordism. But here our Government is still clinging to it. Is it not sad that fifty persons have been allotted 296 acres each while 234707 have got only 1.5 acres each on

an average. People in our country die of two maladies, namely, over-eating and starving.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: The hon. Member is himself wearing two coats.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: I object to too much disparity. We should get inspiration on every occasion from the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Although he is no more, yet his newspaper, Harijan, is still guiding us. It is now being edited by a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Mashruwala. I would like to read out his views on the subject of land allotment in our State. He writes :—

Perhaps the reason for allotting very large areas to a few is that they had lost equally or even larger holdings in the West Punjab. But if the policy of status quo is stressed, no reforms can be achieved. Land must primarily be held by the person who can cultivate it himself and so a family should hold no more land than it could personally cultivate. They can and should be encouraged to form cooperative societies or partnership holdings and thus create large consolidated holdings. But cultivation through labourers and tenants must not be encouraged. They should be compensated, if necessary and possible, in some manner other than land lordism for their greater losses. As a matter of fact, a great exodus like a great revolution is recommencing life on a clean slate. Nor should a holding allotted be so small as to be uneconomic. An acre and a half is, I believe, not considered by any one as economic, not even perhaps 4·7 acres, the figure above it. It is better that people are encouraged to take to other means of livelihood than cultivate uneconomically except again jointly with others and along with other subsidiary occupations

What I mean, Sir, is that the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi would have liked to have things done in that way. Our Government got an opportunity in the form of exodus of people, but it could not rise to the occasion.

Now I want to say a few words regarding those tenants, who tilled the land of big Muslim zamidars. Even in my district, there are a few small villages where such tenants have been tilling the land since the time of the Mutiny. These people are now being ejected for no fault of theirs. In other states, the tenants are being made proprietors of the land they till, while here their condition is becoming worse than before. The land which they have been tilling is being snatched from them and they don't know what to do in the circumstances. They cannot find work even in factories. If they could find work they would work. I wrote in this connection to the hon. Minister but in vain. Then I wrote to the Head of the Department, who gave a sympathetic reply at least. If these poor tenants are ejected from land, they shall have no other means of earning their livelihood. The result would be that those thousands of hungry people will become a menace for the Government itself

Thirdly, I want to say something in regard to those Muslims who, out of courage of conviction, did not migrate from this country but shifted to other parts of it. They are now coming back to their homes. They are being given the same treatment in the services in our State which is being given to the minorities in Pakistan.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is casting aspersions on the administration and it might have serious international repercussions. I suggest that the hon. Member should withdraw these words and they should also be deleted from the proceedings.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: It is no point of order. I want to submit that ours is a secular State and if anybody acts with a communal view, he acts against the ideal of the State.

Sir, I regret to say that we do not follow the principles which we preach. For instance, I brought it to the notice of the officers that we should accord

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma].

a sympathetic treatment to those Muslims who in spite of the fact that their number is small wished to stay in India, and did not want to go to Pakistan. We should appreciate their spirit ; otherwise we should once for all remove the cloak of secularism from our faces. In my district, Jat Muslims of Chandal village are still living in their village. I asked a short notice question also about this matter. They are living in their village. But look at the injustice which our officers have done to them. Their lands have been allotted to displaced persons, although these Muslims never left their village even for a minute. Their forefathers died during the riots but these persons never left their homes. A similar instance can be given of village Hartari in Karnal district. The lands and houses of these Muslim Gujars have been taken possession of by some people. From the Patwari upwards to the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation this matter has been pursued, but to no effect. In this matter I wish the Government to be more careful and just. With these observations on three important points, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I regret to note what Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has remarked about the Muslims of a village in Rohtak. His criticism of the Government is quite unjustified. In this connection, I wish to draw his attention to the agreement that was arrived at between both the Dominion Governments. It was decided that the non-Muslims of West Punjab, Frontier Province and Sind would shift to India and Muslim residents of East Punjab, Pepsu and certain other States would go to Pakistan.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: On a point of order, Sir. Can the agreements arrived at between two Dominions be discussed here?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: I am only referring to certain facts and my contention is that the land that has been vacated by Muslims of East Punjab belongs by right to the displaced persons who have come from West Pakistan. The displaced persons should be allotted such lands and they should be given compensation for their losses. The principle of compensation was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. It has been agreed to by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel. It is the right of the kisans to have full compensation and they can go to the courts of law for enforcement of this right. The scheme of graded cuts has been applied by Punjab Government after consultation and with the approval of the Central Government. No other way could be found to solve the problems of Rehabilitation. The poor kisans have been applied a lesser cut while the big kisans have to bear the burden of cuts up to even 95 per cent. Those who say that no compensation should be given to the zamindars are in fact trying to snatch their lands in the name of Congress and Mahatma Gandhi. This appears to be quite unfair. Of course, I admit tenants have to be given a living. We have to make provision for them. But we should also realize the difficulties of the Government. No State which is surrounded on all sides with difficulties and vexing problems can become Russia, America or Canada overnight. It takes some time to make progress and advancement. Some of the hon. Members are over-zealous. They begin to criticise the administration and the services. I admit that there may be some short comings in the administration. But I cannot help appreciating the way in which it has handled the delicate problems that faced our State sometime back. Had it not been for the services we could not have run the administration for three days. It goes to the credit of the services that even during the difficult times after partition there was no collapse and law and order was maintained in spite of severe shocks. I am pained to hear Pandit Shri Ram Sharma criticizing the services. As a matter of fact the services tried to do whatever they could under the circumstances prevailing

in the State. The farmers congratulate the Government for the ability with which it handled the problems of the State. But they expect that the Government will give them the rights which are their due. Zamindars should be given ownership of the lands that have been allotted to them. They wish to become owners. They cannot go on paying land revenue to the State from the loans they are getting. With these words, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Sir, I had no desire to interrupt but the fact that for the last so many days no time has been given to me in spite of the fact that I have been standing so often in my seat, has compelled me to rise up.

Minister for Rehabilitation: Sir, he can have five minutes out of my time.

Chaudhri Matu Ram: Sir, as a protest I do not want to speak at all. What can I do in five minutes? It is sheer injustice that the hon. Speaker goes on giving time to others while to a Harijan he cannot give even fifteen minutes. I do not want to speak at all. It is injustice and dishonesty.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member should withdraw these words.

Chaudhri Matu Ram: I am prepared to meet the consequences. I won't withdraw these words. What I have said is true. I would better withdraw from the House because injustice has been done to me. The hon. Speaker is sitting like a blind man.

✓ **Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Member will have to withdraw these words or he may go out of the House.

(Chaudhri Matu Ram withdrew from the Chamber)

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) (*Hindi*, Mr. Speaker, some of my hon. Friends have raised the objection that adequate time has not been allotted for the discussion of the Rehabilitation Department. If my personal opinion had been sought in the matter, I would have suggested at least one week to be allocated for discussing this subject which is undoubtedly of vital importance to the very life of the displaced persons. But Government is not to be blamed for this because the hon. Members themselves decided to have only one day for debating this Demand. Then a point of order consumed much of the time which could have been devoted to discuss the item of Rehabilitation.

It has been complained by one of my hon. Friends that while the refugees were bewailing, the face of the Minister for Rehabilitation was rippling with joy. He has not taken kindly to my having a smiling face. I may tell the House that no person, nor even a nation, can accomplish anything with a sullen mind. It is a smiling face which can pull you through adversity. I can assure the House that even if I have to go to gallows, I would do so smilingly. (*Hear, hear*). I am of the firm belief that even the knottiest problems of the world can be solved more easily when one is in a laughing mood than when one is feeling morose. Then again it has been stated that the Minister for Rehabilitation cannot realise the difficulties of the refugees while sitting cosily in a bungalow at Simla. I may assure the House that I can gauge the feelings of the displaced persons better than what my hon. Friends and Sister can feel even by remaining in the plains.

Besides, an hon. Lady Member has complained that only 75 applications of widows had so far been sanctioned for the allotment of lands. She could not betray more ignorance than this. I may tell her that 2000 women have been granted their requests for land.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What I stated was that when I resigned from the Board set up for considering the applications, it had sanctioned only 75 applications by that time. Probably then he was not in charge of the rehabilitation portfolio.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Anyhow, she is satisfied that her information was out of date. I may repeat that 4000 applications from widows were received and out of them no less than 2000 were granted. The remaining applications were rejected on reasonable and cogent grounds. I may also mention that there were a number of applications from issueless widows also. They did not like their lands to be situated near their reversionaries. But justice demanded that they should have lands near them so that the same may revert to the latter after the death of the former and that there should be no fragmentation of land by a person having lands at two different places.

Then, Sir, the Rehabilitation Department as a whole has come in for severe criticism at the hands of my hon. Friends. It has been stated that even-handed justice has not been administered to all the allottees. I think, keeping in view the stupendous magnitude of the work, which this department had to accomplish, none can claim that injustice was not done to anybody. You will just imagine, Sir, that 25 lakhs of standard acres of land were to be distributed among five lakhs of claimants. Then Government was handicapped by lack of records or proper data on the basis of which allotment of land was to be made. As you are aware, Sir, it takes years to settle a dispute between two persons in a village over a piece of land but here in the matter of distribution of lands, we have not taken much time as the hon. Members think it to be. When we received claims of the refugees for grant of lands, we had no means to verify them. It is no exaggeration that a large number of persons had inflated their claims by 80 per cent and even the most honest claimants did not consider it a sin to enhance their claims at least by 25 per cent. Besides, there were certain persons who did not possess land at all on the other side of the border, but they had put in heavy claims. The Rehabilitation Department had to sift all these claims and the time taken in dealing with them can well be imagined than stated. Under the circumstances, it is very unfair on the part of the hon. Members to condemn the department and blame it for waste of time and money. I think levelling such accusations at the door of the officials of the department, is denying justice to them. They have spared no pains to complete the task as early as possible.

Then my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib has remarked that by this allotment of land we are laying the foundation of another revolution. I may point out that I have been seeing to the rehabilitation work even before taking over this portfolio and I am of the opinion that the officials of the department have done their best to administer justice to the refugees in the matter of allotment of lands. If some injustice has been done, it is not because only the officials were dishonest but because the refugees themselves were responsible for perpetrating injustice on their brethren. For instance, those persons who brought undue pressure to bear upon the officers to show favouritism to certain parties were certainly guilty of an unjust act towards their fellow refugees. But I do not mean to say that all the officers of the department were honest par-excellence. I admit that there must have been a number of black sheep among them. The work has been a gigantic one and no less than 10 to 12 thousand officers have been at work to see it through. So the possibility of malpractices on the part of some dishonest officials cannot be ruled out. But on the whole, the department has tried to dispense full justice

to the refugees. In this connection I am reminded of how refugee claimants try to manipulate things. They try to influence the officers to interchange figures in their claims. For instance if they have put in a claim for 16 acres, they would try to get it changed in the office record to 61 acres so that at the time of allotment they may be able to grab more land. So I can say from my own experience and from the opportunities which I have got as a Minister in seeing rehabilitation work, that refugees themselves have been more guilty of doing injustice to their brethren than the officers in the discharge of their duties.

Then my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt has remarked that refugees are greatly agitated over the allotment of land and great unrest prevails among them. I may tell him that if at all there is any unrest among them, it is dwindling down gradually with the receipt of allotment orders and it will completely vanish after a short time when the allotment work is finished. But I would appeal to the hon. Members that they too have a duty to perform in this connection. They know that the displaced people have to be resettled. They should see that the latter are not involved in any new complications. They should pacify them, if there is any trace of unrest among them. But I am sure that as soon as these people receive their allotment orders, they will settle down and after six months when the hon. Members meet again, they will bring forward a resolution of thanks to the Government for the excellent and successful accomplishment of this gigantic task. I hope the hon. Members will extend their cooperation in whatever work is left to be completed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know what were the feelings of the hon. Minister six months ago about the Rehabilitation Department on which he is now showering encomiums ?

Chaudhari Lahri Singh : May I know whether when he resigned from the Rehabilitation Board, it was withdrawal or extension of cooperation on his part in resolving the rehabilitation problem ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the hon. Minister held the same view about the officers and the department about 6 months ago 6 P.M. when he was not a Minister ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I have also put the same question to him. Did he not resign from the membership of the Advisory Committee simply because he was not satisfied with its work ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : I have never thought myself to be a member of the Opposition in this House. If my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh and the hon. Lady Member Shrimati Sita Devi were to take the trouble of going through all the speeches made by me during the last three years on the floor of the House, they would find it for themselves that I always held the view that the task of rehabilitation was of a great magnitude and that work in this connection should be done with the utmost care and caution and in the maximum interest of our refugee brethren. I resigned from this Advisory Committee simply because I felt that the work in this direction was not being done in the way I wanted it to be done. (*An hon. Member :* As if this work is going to be done now). I was of the opinion that after my resignation from the membership of this Committee, the Cabinet would consider the point as to why things which could have been easily done at that time were not being done and thus devise ways and means to set the matters right. It is really a matter of gratification to note that after my resignation and before my becoming a Minister, matters were set right.

Chaudhari Lahri Singh : Perhaps it might have been due to non-co-operation shown by the hon. Minister then.

Minister for Rehabilitation : If we take stock of the position regarding the rehabilitation problem closely and dispassionately, we will find that no such injustice is being done to people now-a-days as was being done a few months ago. However, I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh and the hon. Lady Member Shrimati Sita Devi in particular, that so far we have received about 1,13,000 complaints from the people. I do not think that people are unmindful of this fact as it appears that almost every person has put in an application as is crystal clear from the number of the applications. Out of this total number of applications, about 24,000 applications were duplicate ones. So far as the rest of the applications in connection with the legitimate complaints are concerned, they have been looked into and grievances redressed accordingly. So far as these applications are concerned, in certain cases some applicants who happen to be very influential persons and who wanted some special concessions to be made to them to the detriment of others have received a blank refusal from the Government. In most of the cases, as has already been stated by some of my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches, where rules have been violated by allotting land in a village to some big and influential persons, which under the rules could have been allotted to some other persons, such irregularities have been and are being set right.

Further, my hon. Friend Sardar Kartar Singh has in the course of his speech pointed out that people were disheartened to know through newspapers and other sources that no appeals would be heard from those to whom wrong had been done in the matter of allotment. I may assure my hon. Friend that it is not so and this news item may have been published due to some misunderstanding. In those cases where any irregularities in the matter of allotment have been committed by violation of the existing rules as a result of which people have suffered much, all-out efforts would be made to set them right and they would surely be given a chance to have their say. It has been stated that poor people have been asked to vacate and make room for big and influential persons without any rhyme or reason and thus undue preference has been given to the latter over the former. It is just possible that the statement of my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh which he has made in the course of his speech may be right. At this stage I cannot say whether a rich person as referred to by him could be allotted land there. I shall examine this case and other cases too in which grave injustice has been done in the matter of allotment.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Such cases are innumerable. How many of these cases will the hon. Minister set right ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : If any irregularity has been committed before my joining the Cabinet I shall try my best to set that right.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What about the Kothis ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : We have gone through 40,000 applications and the complaints have already been set right. Besides, we have also received thousands of applications from those people who have not been able to put in their complaints in time. In certain cases, it is complained that

being sitting allottees they have been removed from their places. I have myself examined most of these cases. In some cases the applicants have complained that they had not affixed their signature or thumb impressions and still in some other cases they complained that applications for allotment were made without their knowledge and so on and so forth. So far as those are concerned to whom injustice has been done in the matter of allotment, their appeals would surely be heard and they would be given a chance to get their genuine grievances redressed.

My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has mentioned a few points in the course of his speech and I would like to say a few things by way of reply. He along with other hon. Members has complained that the claims of the big landlords from West Pakistan should not be recognized or in other words their claims should be ignored altogether. I wish to bring this point home to them that the number of land owners who came from West Pakistan and who own more than 250 acres of land, does not exceed 3000. We have reduced the number of such land owners. Now in this State of Punjab the number of landowners who own 250 acres or more of land is only 272. It was not possible to effect more cuts in their case. My hon. Friend would be surprised to hear that these 3000 land owners have left about 13,80,000 acres of land in West Pakistan. We have reduced their acreage and allotted them 84,000 acres of land only. It will not be out of place to mention here that all these big landlords have been subjected to a cut ranging from $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12\frac{3}{4}\%$ in their lands and allotment has been made to them on that basis. I am of the opinion that if a similar cut had been applied to the lands of the zamindars of East Punjab, even then, I am sure, landlords from West Pakistan would not have raised any objection.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Was it within the power of the hon. Minister to do so ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : If such things were done, I know my hon. Friend would have been the first person to oppose them vehemently. Perhaps he has forgotten that during the regime of the previous ministry, being a member of the Select Committee set up in connection with the Sales Tax, he was one of those who recommended the levy of two annas in a rupee as the sales tax. But when the Report of the Select Committee came before the House, at that time, he was not occupying the same seat as before and he opposed the very taxation proposal vehemently. Let me however, bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and to my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh in particular that I have every hope that whenever any occasion arises, these uprooted and displaced landlords from West Pakistan would be glad to welcome the suggestion that they may be allotted only 10 acres of land each. Further my hon. Friend has mentioned that it was decided by the Government not to allot more than 10 acres of land to any zaminder from West Pakistan. I for one do not think that any such decision was ever arrived at by the Government. It was not possible to take such a decision at that time. Perhaps my hon. Friend is not unmindful of the fact that at that time nobody knew as to who owned land and to whom land should be allotted. As the whole of the land left by the Muslim Evacuees remained uncultivated, it was decided that it should be brought under cultivation and allotted on temporary basis. From the very beginning, Government had taken a decision that the land should be allotted to those persons who owned land in the West Punjab. I think that nobody should attach any importance to the statement of such

[Minister For Rehabilitation]

persons who say that the Government had no intention of allotting land to these people. Sometime, these people say why Government is allotting more land to the landlords and on the other hand they would ask why land is being allotted to the local tenants. But we have every sympathy with the local tenants. The people living in India should have come to the rescue of these displaced people by giving them their own land but these people did not show any sympathy towards them. Now things have come to such a pass that when the Government thought of rationing the housing accommodation, these people raised a strong voice of protest against such a policy of the Government. While addressing a public meeting at Ludhiana, I exhorted the audience to help these displaced people who had come from the West Punjab, failing which, it was likely that they may switch over to undesirable professions. On the next day, the local people at once convened a meeting and criticised my speech. On the following day I was told that the Congress was becoming unpopular and its influence was waning among the masses. This was, as a matter of fact, a reaction of my speech which I delivered, that it was the duty of every citizen in India to welcome the displaced persons and to do their best to give them shelter. I fully agree that the tenants have equal rights to cultivate the land. But it is certainly not fair on their part to refuse to surrender the possession of land that they have occupied or to instigate others to do the same. I would say that in the Nawab of Mamdot's estate every tenant is occupying one thousand acres of land and I think that these people should not be ejected and the Government has full sympathy with these people.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Will the hon. Minister kindly clarify the policy of the Government with regard to the allotment of land occupied by tenants in Mamdot estate? Is it the intention of the Government not to allot this land to the displaced persons so that these tenants may be least disturbed?

Minister for Rehabilitation : I think, my hon. Friend would be knowing it better. When I took over charge of the office, this was not the policy of the Government. But I took the necessary steps to prevent the eviction of those tenants who have been cultivating the land for several years. But all the same such tenants who have occupied land within the last two years and do not surrender its possession are really creating difficulties for the Government. I have seen that about one lakh and twenty thousand persons have submitted their representations that they have been allotted less land. It is because of the fact that the tenants are occupying land the possession of which they have not yet surrendered. We should all make joint efforts to bring home to these people that it is not possible to allot the same land which they are at present occupying. I would say that the number of occupancy tenants in the East Punjab is not fairly large and more tenants will be required for cultivation of large area of land which is lying uncultivated. It is, therefore, not becoming on their part to propagate among the tenants that the Government intends to eject them from the land and it had evolved a truly workable scheme by bringing tractors in order to end their utility. Such a false and baseless propaganda is likely to create serious misunderstanding among the ignorant people. It is the recognized policy of the Government that no property of anybody shall be taken possession of by the Government unless full compensation has been paid for such property. (Cheers.) Therefore, in order to take possession of the land occupied by the tenants and others, it is of utmost consequence that whole-hearted co-operation of public is given in this matter. If all the Members of this House address themselves seriously to solve the problem of tenants and landlords, the solution of the problem would not present any difficulty. In fact, the problem of tenants

should not assume high importance in the Punjab as a vast area of land is lying uncultivated in India and the tenant class should not at all feel apprehensive about their future. We have every sympathy with this class of people and I may assure them that their interests will in no way be allowed to suffer in the matter of allotment of land. They may take it for granted that even if there is any slice of land in any part of India it will be allotted to them. Some of my hon. Friends have remarked that Muslims have not been shown fair treatment in the matter of allotment of land. I should like to inform them that in the district of Gurgaon, out of 4638 families who owned 4432 acres of land, 3861 families have been allotted 3238 acres of land. Besides this, land has been allotted to Muslims in the districts of Ambala Kangra and Ludhiana. If these Muslims have been allotted comparatively less area of land, it is because of the fact that the allotment at this stage has been made on temporary basis. The possession of land to these allottees will be delivered in the month of May or June. Some Muslims have not been allotted land because they left for Pakistan and were not here at the time of census. The allotment has been made in favour of those Muslims who stayed in the East Punjab. Such Muslims who are still without land will be allotted land as soon as their land is surrendered by the refugees to whom allotment has been made on temporary basis. Besides this, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 31,534/— as taccavi loans to Muslims in Ambala district and Rs. 1,44,895 to Muslims in Gurgaon district. The hon. Members who have tried to throw blame upon the Government for not showing fair treatment to Muslims may now themselves judge how financial assistance has been extended to Muslims in the State. If a comparative study is made of taccavi loans advanced to Hindu and Sikh landlords, the scales will weigh in favour of Muslims. We have faith in the ideal of secular democracy and I regret to say that my hon. Friends should in their enthusiasm try to fling a charge against the Government of having little faith in this principle. I have seen that some of the Muslims of Gurgaon district had gone to Pakistan and in their absence their names were not included in the census list. But subsequently they returned as they said that they did not find suitable arrangement there and were thus compelled to leave Pakistan. Such Muslims have, however, not been allotted land. The allotment of land has been made in favour of those Muslims who continued to stay here. My hon. Friend has remarked during the course of his speech that the lands mortgaged by Muslims should be redeemed, and given to them. The matter is under the active consideration of the Government but since the mortgage money amounts to 4½ crores of rupees, the Government finds it difficult to pay this heavy amount on account of the inadequacy of finance. However, Government would like to get the land redeemed by paying some compensation or allotting land to such people.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, I think that people who are advocating the cause of the Muslims are agents of Pakistan.

Minister for Rehabilitation: I think we should not utter such things about each other. We should on the other hand create better relations amongst us so that we may be in a position to render some service to the State and our refugee brethren.

One of my hon. Friends was pleased to say that no amount has been provided in the Budget for compensation to the displaced people and that there was no necessity of inviting the claims again. My hon. Friend must rest assured that the old claims will not be thrown into the waste paper basket. As a matter of fact a concession has been afforded to the displaced men by asking them to put in new claims. The world will soon see that those

[Minister for Rehabilitation].

who in the first instance put in a hundred per cent false claims will be tried in courts, those who gave 75 per cent false claims will have their land reduced by 60 percent, those who made fifty percent false representation shall have a reduction in their quota of 40 percent. Of course those who made only 25 percent or less false representation will be pardoned. As for the compensation, I am to say that there was no necessity for making any provision for it in the Budget. Only the lands and other property left by the Muslims are to be distributed and we shall act with the rapidity of an electric current when orders are received from the Central Government for inviting new claims. As and when the orders are received we shall take no time in announcing as to how much property has been left by our people and how much would be available for those over here.

There is one thing which has been stressed by some hon. Members and which has pinched me a good deal and that is that the Government discriminates between the ruralites and the urbanites. It is an absolutely absurd and false allegation. Government tries to provide for the needs of everyone irrespective of his being an urbanite or a ruralite. The ruralites who are mostly Kisans have been given loans in the form of taccavi to the extent of rupees 3, 15, 13, 430.

Sardar Bachan Singh: How much has been advanced to the urban population ?

Minister for Rehabilitation: I may inform my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that in the cities seventeen thousand persons were given loans of sums less than rupees five thousand and the total amount advanced is Rs. 1,39,00,000

Master Gurbanta Singh: But the Harijans did not get any help.

Minister for Rehabilitation: I remember having recommended three or four applications of Harijans myself. However, I shall see that justice is done to them. It is our duty that we should look to the requirements of all citizens of our State.

Some representatives of the urban people have voiced that houses have not been provided to them. I may for their information say that in May mud huts would be ready for 66,000 souls out of 80,000 now living in the camps. This means that by the end of April this year only 14,000 persons will be without a roof over their head in our State. In these circumstances, I make bold to say that the allegation regarding houses is baseless.

Some hon. Members: There are many people who are without houses.

Minister for Rehabilitation: Those who are without them can go to Khanna, Palwal or Rewari where so many newly built houses are still lying vacant.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : An idea.

Minister for Rehabilitation: But the hon. Member is living at Delhi.

Chief Minister: The head office of the company was shifted to Delhi before the partition.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Sir, I was speaking about houses. Next year we shall sell 10,000 plots for building houses and loans would be advanced for this purpose. An hon. Member pointed out that in the villages some people had been allotted houses whereas others were being given loans for building new ones and that injustice was being perpetrated on the latter

I find some weight in this argument and shall consult my Department as to what can be done in this matter. I shall do my utmost to see that none of my brethren remains without a shelter. I cannot tolerate any of our citizens being exposed to the severities of the sun or rain.

Sardar Kartar Singh: But will this principle be extended to the village tenants as well? I think the hon. Minister has no answer at the moment.

Minister for Rehabilitation: If I have no answer at present I am always at their disposal and they can demand an answer from me at any time. I shall see what I can do for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions is——

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is——

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,51,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1950.

Qaumi Press, Jullundur.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

22nd March 1950

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 22nd March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2. p. m.
of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Mr. Speaker. I am sorry that feeling a bit aggrieved and enraged yesterday at not being able to catch hon. Speaker's eye, in spite of my having repeatedly stood up during the last ten days, I uttered a few words which I should not have used. I feel sorry for having used those words and wish to withdraw them.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, when question No. 1687 was replied to yesterday, you were pleased to say that the time was up. Am I permitted to put supplementary questions today ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member ought to have risen in his seat immediately this question was replied to.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I will just ask only one question.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Very well.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know from the hon. Minister if any differentiation is made as between the male teachers and lady teachers ?

Minister for Education : The question is being examined.

PROVINCIALISATION OF THE SCHOOLS OF LOCAL BODIES.

*1688. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government has considered the memorandum sent by the President of District Board Teachers Union regarding Provincialisation of the schools of all local bodies in the state, if so, the result thereof ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Yes.

The matter is under consideration of the Government. I may for the information of the House, add that a committee known as Wattal Committee has been appointed to go into the question on an all India basis.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government propose to consult the local bodies and the general public in this matter ?

Minister : A Committee has been constituted and it is ascertaining the different views on this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How many representatives of local bodies are members of this Committee ?

Minister : Representatives of local bodies have not been included in this Committee.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that this Committee has reported that the Government is not in a position to provincialise the District Board schools ?

Minister : The Committee has not submitted its report so far.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the District Board teachers have represented to the Government on several occasions that their grades of pay are very low and that for months together they do not receive their salaries in time ? Has the Government considered the advisability of provincialising them ?

Minister : Whenever the Government received representation regarding the non payment of salaries, it asked the District Boards to make the payment as early as possible.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in spite of instructions issued by the Government, the District Board of Hissar, Gurgaon, Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Jullundur have not paid salaries to their teachers ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The question relates to the provincialisation of District Boards schools. The hon. Member's question does not arise.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Has the Government tried to ascertain the views of District Boards ?

Minister : Every District Board wishes to be saved from incurring expenditure on the education of children.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I wish to know, Sir, if the Government has ascertained the views of District Boards regarding provincialisation of their schools.

Minister : They would naturally like these schools to be taken over by the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Have the District Boards written to the Government that it should take over their schools ?

Minister : I know it from my personal knowledge.

Shri Virendra : As decision on this matter is likely to take long, does the Government propose to give some relief to these teachers for the interim period ?

Minister : It is for the District Boards to decide this question.

Shri Virendra : Has the Government received no representation from the District Board teachers that they do not get their salaries in time ?

Minister : Whenever any representation is received in this connection, the Government asks the District Boards concerned to arrange for early payment.

Shri Virendra : If the District Boards are not in a position to pay, what should the poor teachers do ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When will the Committee start its work and who are its members ?

Minister : I shall be able to give this information, if the hon. Member gives notice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that for want of any solution of this problem, the conditions in the State have become very dangerous ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a matter of opinion.

Minister : Government has full sympathy with District Board teachers.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS.

***1689. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of money spent by the Government so far on the education of refugee students as grants for (i) primary education (ii) secondary education (iii) college education and (iv) Education in professional colleges viz. Engineering and Medical colleges etc.
- (b) the total amount of money given by the Government as loans to students referred to above ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) (i) Free grants etc., are not admissible to the students of Primary classes.

- (ii) Total amount of Free grants etc., so far sanctioned for the students of secondary schools is as under :—

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 1948—49 | ... | ... | Rs. 19,20,590/11/6 |
| 1949—50 (to date) | ... | ... | Rs. 19,99,623/2/- |
| Total | ... | ... | Rs. 39,20,213/13/6 |

In addition to the above the following amounts have also been sanctioned as grants to camp schools.

| | 1948—49 | 1949—50. |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| (i) For the payment of salary etc., to teachers in camp schools | ... Rs. 3,17,420/- | Rs. 2,91,726/- |

[Minister for Education]

- (ii) For providing reading and writing material to the students studying in camp schools ...

Rs. 64,820/- Rs. 46,269/-

Total.

Rs. 3,82,240/- Rs. 3,37,995/-

- (iii) Students in Arts and Training colleges are given loans and the total amount sanctioned so far in this connection is Rs. 17,56,226/5/-.

- (iv) The required information is being collected from the Departments concerned and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

- (b) Total amount of money given as loans to the displaced students in arts and Training colleges is as under :—

1948—49 ... Rs. 12,77,729/14/-
1949—50 (to date) ... Rs. 4,78,496/7/-

Total

Rs. 17,56,226/5/-

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. According to the rules, if the reply to a question is very long the hon. Speaker can allow supplementaries to be asked at a later date. Will it not be better if the hon. Speaker permits the Members to ask supplementaries on this question afterwards?

Mr. Speaker : Since the reply has been read out, it would be better if the hon. Members put supplementary question just now.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Since the reply to a part of the question is that 'the information is being collected,' can the supplementaries to this question be postponed?

Mr. Speaker : If the information is given to the hon. Member when the Assembly is not in session, he will have no chance to ask any supplementaries.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister please tell the percentage of refugee students who have got loans and grants from the Government?

Minister : If notice is given, I can give the information asked for.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that less than 50 per cent of refugee students have actually been given loans and grants?

Minister : No, that is not correct.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government has reserved any amount for giving loans and grants to those students who have not so far received any?

Minister : No amount is reserved for this purpose. The money is got from the Rehabilitation Department.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Should I understand that the deserving cases will not be given any help for want of funds ?

Chief Minister : Government never said that deserving students will not get any help because there are no funds. In this matter certain rules have been framed by the Government of India and we are acting on those rules. The presumption that the Government has refused help for want of money, is baseless.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that a large number of schools for whom grants have been sanctioned have actually not got the money so far ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives any specific cases, we can enquire.

Shrimati Sita Devi : There are two schools at Jullundur, namely Sain Das School and Victoria School, for which grants have been sanctioned ; but so far no payment has been made to them.

Minister : If this is a fact, the payment will be made soon.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any separate schools have been opened for refugee students or grants have been given to the existing schools ?

Chief Minister : Grants at first were given to those schools which remained closed on account of evacuation of people. But now the grants are given to individual students and not to schools.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaurshish : May I know if any grant has been given to the students of the Camp College Delhi ?

Chief Minister : The students studying in the Camp College can get loans and grants from the Delhi Government because the college is situated in their territory.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it not a fact that the students who were getting scholarships before partition, are not being given scholarships now ?

Chief Minister : This is not a fact.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it not a fact that there are students at Rohtak who are not getting scholarships now ?

Chief Minister : I can reply to this question after verification.

ALLOTMENT OF SHOP NO. 5533, PANSARI BAZAR, AMBALA CANTONMENT.

*1384. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that shop No. 5533 in Pansari Bazar, Ambala Cantonment was allotted to one Ram Dass Dhamija but afterwards somebody else claimed half of this shop ;

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma].

- (b) whether it is fact that the claim of Shri Dhamija was upheld by the proper authorities ;
- (c) the name of the officers who authorised the other claimant, Messrs Wadhawa Singh Charan Singh, to take possession of half of this shop :

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Shop No. 5533 in Pansari Bazar, Ambala Cantonment was allotted to Shri Ram Dass. The half portion was afterwards allotted to Messrs. Charan Singh Wadhawa Singh ;

(b) On a representation made by Shri Ram Dass previous allottee, the allotment of shop No. 5533 (one half) in favour of Messrs Charan Singh Wadhawa Singh was cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner. The shop is still in possession of Shri Ram Das ;

(c) Shri M. S. Randhawa I.C.S., the then Deputy Commissioner, Ambala.

LOANS TO M.L.As., MEMBERS OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT AND OTHERS.

* 1439. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the Members of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly or the Central Legislative Assembly or Indian Parliament who have been given loans under the displaced persons rehabilitation scheme upto 31. 1. 50.
- (b) the total amount given to each of the persons mentioned in (a) above.
- (c) whether any other concession such as allotment of factories or running concerns has been granted to these persons, if so, the nature of each such concession granted to each of the M.L.As ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a, b, & c) It is not considered to be in the interest of the borrowers or the public to disclose the names of those M.L.As, Members of the Union Parliament or other displaced persons who have been given loans by Government in accordance with the State Government or the Union Government's recognised measures for the grant of financial assistance to displaced persons for rehabilitation purposes, but the hon. Member is assured that neither any favour nor any infringement of the rules or instructions on the subject has been committed in the matter of the grant of loans or the allotment of factories, if any, to any Member of the Legislative Assembly or of the Union Parliament.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why the Government makes distinctions between an ordinary borrower and a Member of the Assembly ?

Minister : We do not give out the names of any borrower.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the Government prepared to consider the proposal that the names of the hon. Members who have got loans or have got allotted in their names factories should be stated so that the people might know if favour has been done to anybody ?

Minister : No favour has been done to anybody. If however the hon. Member gives us any specific instances, we can make enquiries.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How can I give any instance unless I know the names of the borrowers ?

Minister : I am satisfied that no favour has been done to anybody in the matter of loans and the allotment of factories.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : After all what are the considerations of public interest for which the names are not being disclosed ?

Chief Minister : My hon. friend is himself a businessman. He should know that no businessman wants his debts to be disclosed. If that is done, his reputation gets affected. That is why the names have not been disclosed.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Next question. Since public interest is involved in replying to the supplementary questions I will not allow any more of them.

LIQUOR SHOPS

*1444. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any new liquor shops were opened in the Province between the period 15-8-47 to 31-1-50, if so, the number of such shops in each district ;
- (b) the total quantity of liquor, foreign and country-made respectively, consumed by each district during the years 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and the 1st ten months of 1949-50 respectively;
- (c) the total quantity of opium consumed in each of the districts of the Province for each of the years mentioned in part (b) above ?
- (d) the total revenue received on account of the sale of liquor and opium respectively during each of the years referred to above ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, the following new shops were opened :—

Name of district.

Number and nature of license.

Gurdaspur.

One L. 1 license for the wholesale vend of foreign liquor to cater for the needs of L. 9 (Retail vend in a military canteen) licensees at Pathankot.

Jullundur.

One L. 1 license for the products of Dyer Meakin Breweries, Solan, at Jullundur.

Amritsar.

One L. 1 license for the wholesale vend of beer at Amritsar.

Ambala.

One L. 1 license for the wholesale vend of beer at Ambala.

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

Besides the following licenses for sale of liquor were shifted from one place to another ;—

| Name of district. | Kind of license. | Locality from where shifted. | Locality to which shifted. |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hissar. | Retail vend of country liquor. | Village Sorkhi. | Village Biwani Khera |
| 2. Karnal. | -do- | Village Naultha. | Village Hartala. |
| 3. Ferozepore. | Wholesale vend of country liquor. | Ferozepore Cantonment. | Zira. |
| | -do-
Wholesale and retail vend of foreign liquor to the public. | Moga
Ferozepore City. | Giddarbaha.
Moga. |
| 4. Amritsar. | Retail vend of country liquor,
Wholesale vend of country liquor. | Village Banian.
Amritsar. | Village Khilchian.
Patti. |
| 5. Gurdaspur. | Wholesale and retail vend of foreign liquor to the public. | Dalhousie. | Pathankot. |
| | -do-
Retail vend of country liquor. | -do-
Village Dalla. | Batala.
Qadian. |
| | -do- | Village Basu Barwan. | Village Narot Mehra. |

(b) Statement I is laid on the table.† The figures for the month of January, 1950 are not available.

(c) Statement II is laid on the table † The figures for the month of January, 1950, are not available.

| (d) Year | Revenue derived from. | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Liquor. | Opium. |
| (1) 1946-47 | 1,40,39,202/- | 69,40,471/- |
| (2) 1947-48 (from the 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1948.) | 64,15,980/- | 36,73,370/- |
| (3) 1948-49. | 1,44,73,454/- | 91,35,537/- |
| (4) 1949-50 (from the 1st April, 1949 to the 31st December, 1949.) | 1,00,43,315/- | 60,95,096/- |

* kept in the Library.

The figures for the month of January, 1950, are not available.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : From the figures it is quite clear that in Karnal, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Amritsar districts there is an increased sale of foreign liquor. Does the Government intend taking any action to stop the consumption of foreign liquor ?

Minister : We have taken sufficient steps in this direction and we will act according to the policy of gradual prohibition.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons for giving more licences to shops of foreign liquor in Amritsar District ?

Minister : In Amritsar a ban on public drinking has been imposed. So licences have been issued to clubs.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there is sale of liquor in black market ?

Minister: It has not come to my knowledge.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it not a fact that many persons have got a monopoly for the sale of foreign liquor ?

Minister: This is far from truth.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the treatment accorded by the Government to other clubs in the State is not being accorded to the clubs of Amritsar?

Minister : Equal treatment is accorded to all the clubs. There is no discrimination at all.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It has been stated that the policy of the Government is of gradual prohibition. I wish to know whether the Government has ever considered the financial implications of this policy ?

Minister : Like a sensible businessman every step is taken after paying due consideration to the financial aspect.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether any concession has been given to the Solan Brewery ?

Minister: The hon. Member should know that Solan is in Himachal Pradesh.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how far the opening of new liquor shops is in conformity with the declared policy of the Government for introducing prohibition in the State ?

Minister: Government has not opened any new shops. When no licence was needed at one place it was given to another person at another place. Only such changes have been made,

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: In spite of the gradual prohibition policy of the Government the sale of liquor in the State has increased. How can the Government call it a success ?

Minister: The actual consumption has, in fact, decreased although due to increase in price etc. the taxes have increased.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: The first part of my question, *i.e.*, whether any new liquor shops have been opened, has not been replied.

Minister: No new shop has been opened.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Is it not a fact that the decrease in sale is due to the fact that people have begun to brew their own liquor ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Virendra:—Has the hon. Minister been to any liquor house ?
(*Laughter.*)

Minister: The same where the hon. Member went. (*Renewed laughter*)

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** No such remarks, please.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that Government of India has issued instructions that every State should make its own policy in the matter of prohibition ?

Minister: Such instructions have been issued. But our policy is in line with the policy of the Government of India in this matter.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Since the Government of India considers that the excise policy has a far-reaching effect on the finances of the States it has allowed freedom of action in this matter. In the light of this, is the Government prepared to revise their policy ?

Chief Minister: It has already been stated that our policy in this matter is in line with the policy of the Government of India. The Minister incharge of Central Excise called a conference of the States' Excise Ministers some months back. The decisions arrived at in that conference are being followed by us.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it a fact that due to prohibition in Rohtak District, liquor is being smuggled into the district from the adjoining territories ?

Chief Minister: It does not arise out of this question.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO REFUGEES FROM SARGODHA.

*1625. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that refugees coming from Sargodha have been allotted lands in the districts of Ludhiana and Ambala ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that R. B. Brij Lal of Sargodha has been allotted a piece of land in the district of Rohtak, if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

- (b) R. B. Brij Lal Puri who originally belonged to district Sialkot, had land both in district Jhang and district Sargodha. He had expressed a wish for settlement with the land-holders of Jhang district. This was agreed to by Government under the general scheme, which provided allotment to West Punjab colonists in accordance with the colony district of allocation.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Cabinet decided that if any change in allotment from one district to another is to be effected the wishes of the persons concerned would be taken into consideration?

Minister : According to the rules the displaced persons coming from the West Punjab were given an option of settling in the districts allotted to the people of their districts or in their original districts, if any.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I know the districts allotted to the persons coming from Sargodha district ?

Minister : Ambala and Ludhiana districts.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It has been stated that while making allotments the residence in West Punjab is taken into consideration. In view of the fact that R. B. Brij Lal of Sargodha had very little property in Jhang, may I know why he has been allotted a piece of land in Rohtak District ?

Minister : There is no doubt that he lived at Sargodha. But as he had some property in Jhang he applied for allotment along with the people of Jhang. That is why he has been given land in Rohtak District.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it due to his relationship with the previous Premier that he was allotted land in Rohtak ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflection, please.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government enquired from the refugees of Jhang District, whether they would allow others to live with them ? (*Laughter.*)

Minister : Refugees of Jhang do not tolerate others to be settled with them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether those persons who applied for the allotment of lands in a particular district because they possessed lands in certain districts in Pakistan before migration, were granted their requests ?

Minister : Those persons who had lands at several places in Pakistan, were allotted lands at suitable places according to the rules.

Sardar Partap Singh : What was the percentage of land left in the districts of Sargodha and Jhang? Was it greater in the former district or the latter one?

Minister : I cannot say off hand. If the hon. Member gives notice, information will be collected.

Sardar Partap Singh : Then will the Government endeavour not to go counter to the rules which *inter alia* provide that the lands will be granted to the applicants in the district corresponding to their district in Pakistan?

Minister : I would look into the matter. If any violation of the rules comes to my notice, it will be rectified.

Sadar Kartar Singh : May I know whether there is any restriction under the rules that percentage of land held by a refugee in Pakistan be taken into consideration at the time of allotment of land? Do the rules provide that the refugees can get lands allotted in those districts corresponding to which district in Pakistan, they possessed larger areas of land?

Minister : The rules provide that a refugee zamindar would get lands in that district in which a larger percentage of his lands was situated.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May I know why Rai Bahadur Brij Lal has been granted lands in Rohtak District, when his lands were situated in the Sargodha District, and particularly when he was not eligible for allotment of lands in Rohtak? May I also know whether this mistake would be set right?

Minister : I will look into the matter but I feel that no irregularity has been committed by the department as it seldom errs. However, if any irregularity in this connection comes to my notice, I will see that it is rectified soon.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that it is laid down in the rules that the allottee will get his lands in the same district corresponding to which he had lands in Pakistan, and that there is nothing in the rules about the amount of land being a condition precedent for the allotment of land in a particular district?

Minister : I have a vague idea of the rule and I think that the view of the hon. Member is correct. But there might be some exception which I am not aware of at present.

ALLOTMENT OF UNCULTIVATED LAND IN VILLAGE DHOLOWAL.

***1623. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about two hundred acres of land of Muslim evacuees is lying uncultivated and unallotted in village Dholowal, tehsil Pathankot, district Gurdaspur ;

- (b) whether any applications for taking over this land on lease have been received, if so, what orders have been passed thereon ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) All the cultivated evacuee area in village Dholowal had been allotted temporarily and has now been allotted quasi-permanently.

- (b) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF MUD HUTS IN DINA NAGAR

***1631. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether it is a fact that 150 mud huts are intended to be built in Dina Nagar Refugee Camp at a cost of Rs.50,000 -;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there are no means of livelihood or scope of any business at Dina Nagar ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No. The scheme has since been abandoned.

- (b) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Since the scheme for building huts has been abandoned, may I know where will the refugees of Dina Nagar Camp be shifted ?

Minister: They will be sent to a place of their choice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know that if they want to be settled in New Delhi, Government will make arrangements to that effect ?

Chief Minister: No. In that case they will be settled in Rohtak District. (*Laughter*)

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Minister has stated that the refugees of Dina Nagar would be settled in a place of their choice. May I know whether it is the set policy of the Government to respect the wishes of refugees in camps ?

Minister: Yes. Not only for refugees of Dina Nagar camp but also for refugees of all the camps. They will be provided with huts wherever they desire to settle.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know whether Government intends to build huts in Pathankot also ?

Minister: The hon. Member will receive the reply to this supplementary question in the reply to the next question, which is going to be answered on the floor of the House.

(*Shri Dev Raj Sethi rose in his seat*)

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** Let the hon. Minister reply; the hon. Member should not assume the roll of a Minister.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, he is a Minister in the making (*Laughter.*)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: And he is Minister in the unmaking.
(*Renewed laughter*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** Only Ministers should reply to the questions and not Ministers in the making.

MUD HUTS FOR REFUGEES AT GURDASPUR.

***1632. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has under consideration the building of some mud huts for the refugees at Gurdaspur, if so, when will these be constructed?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: No mud huts are proposed for Gurdaspur as we have no relief camp there.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

***1701 Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of displaced persons in refugee camps on the 1st of March, 1950 ;
- (b) how many of them are receiving free ration ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: (a) 1, 09, 709.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (b) (i) Jammu and Kashmir displaced persons. | 3635 |
| (ii) Unattached women and children. | 8375 |
| (iii) Unattached, infirm and aged persons and their dependents. | 1322 |

Total.....13332

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

***1380. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether he received complaints about the management of the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar from Comrade Madan Lal, a Socialist worker ; if so, to what result ;
- (b) the substance of allegations and whether he was given a chance to substantiate the charges ;
- (c) whether any action was taken by the Government against any body on proved charges ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: (a) Yes. Some of the complaints received have been investigated while others are under investigation.

- (b) The substance of the allegations made was alleged corruption, high-handedness, nepotism, favouritism and forced labour against (1) the Superintendent, Government Livestock Farm, Hissar, (2) the Head Clerk, Office of the Superintendent of the Farm and (3) Head Farm Overseer of the Farm.

The complainant was duly given opportunities by the Superintendent of the Farm to substantiate the allegations.

- (c) The complaints against Nos. (1) and (3) in (b) above have since been filed as the allegations could not be proved while some complaints against No. (2) are still under consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister please tell us when this complaint came to the notice of the Government? How long did it take to be investigated?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the complaint is being investigated by one or more than one officer?

Minister : Investigations are being conducted by the Superintendent of Farms.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will he tell us which parts of the complaint have been investigated and which of them are still under enquiry?

Minister : I cannot tell the details off-hand. I require notice for this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know on which complaint the enquiry has been completed and report submitted to Government and which of the complaints are still under investigation?

Minister : I have nothing to add to what I have already stated in reply to the main question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated in reply to part (a) that certain complaints have been enquired into and the remaining are under investigation. I want to know the results of the investigations of those complaints, the investigation of which has been completed? What action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

Minister : Some of the allegations on enquiry have been found to be wrong and the remaining are under enquiry.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know which of the complaints have been found to be wrong?

Minister : All the complaints except that of the Head Clerk, have been found to be wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What was the complaint against that Head Clerk?

Minister : For details, I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I seek your protection. The replies of the hon. Minister lead us nowhere. He does not give definite replies.

Mr. Speaker : That is why I am allowing supplementary questions to be put.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I cannot get oil out of stone. May I know whether with a view to upholding the respect and prestige of the Government, the hon. Ministers will try to give definite replies to the questions on the floor of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

COMPLAINT AGAINST CIVIL SUPPLIES OFFICER, HISSAR

* 1381. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Comrade Madan Lal, a socialist worker of Hissar made complaints to the Government, against the District Civil Supplies Officer, Hissar concerning corruption, favouritism and irregularities in that office ; if so, the result thereof ;
- (b) whether the complainant was given chance to prove the allegations made by him ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Certain complaints from Comrade Madan Lal have been received by the Government.

- (b) The complaints are still under consideration and if Government consider it necessary, the complainant would be given a chance to prove the allegations made by him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When did the Government receive this complaint ? Who was deputed to make necessary enquiries into this complaint ?

Chief Minister : This question has already been replied by the hon. Minister. So far as the date is concerned, the same information can be made available to him if he gives notice.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : May I know if it is not a fact that such questions are answered after making the necessary enquiries into the complaint ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a general question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question was as to what was the result of the complaint made against the District Civil Supplies Officer, Hissar, concerning corruption, favouritism and irregularities in that office to which the hon. Minister has replied that enquiries are being held and that the complainant would be given a chance if any necessity arises. May I know whether the enquiry officer is busy with this work ?

Chief Minister : The complaint has been received and action is being taken. The hon. Member wants to know the date and he will be given this information.

Pandit Shari Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that as a rule after receiving a complaint Government starts making enquiries. May I know the reasons for not contacting the complainant so far ?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that if Government considers it necessary, the complainant would be given a chance to prove the allegations already made by him. If *prima facie* the complaint is of a general nature then there seems to be no necessity for the department to make any enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the department ascertained whether or not there is a *prima facie* case against the officer?

Chief Minister: That will be done if and when any necessity is left to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether a *prima facie* case has been made out against the officer?

Chief Minister: If it is found to be *prima facie* case then the complainant would naturally be given a chance to prove the allegations.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that as a rule in such cases the complainant is given a chance to prove the allegations made by him? If so, may I know as to why this departure has been made in this case?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that. No departure from the rules has been made in this connection.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: As the complainant has not been given a chance to prove the allegations, may I know if this is not a departure from the ordinary rules?

Chief Minister: No departure from the rules has been made in this connection.

BHANDARI FOUNDRY AND IRON WORKS, LUDHIANA

***1382. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that coal belonging to the Bhandari Foundry and Iron Works, Millar Ganj, Ludhiana was recently sealed; if so, why?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: It is regretted that as the case is *sub Judice* the information asked for cannot be furnished.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: So far as the member is concerned, he was a member of the Civil Supplies Committee and he was removed from that Committee by the orders of the hon. Minister on the complaint of the department. May I know as to what offence has this member committed?

Minister: The case is *sub judice*. Therefore the question of the removal of the member from that Committee does not arise. The question was whether coal was sealed or not, and if so, why?

VEHICLES PURCHASED FOR GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

***1555. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

- (a) the total number of vehicles purchased by the Government for furtherance of the "Grow More Food Campaign";
- (b) the total amount spent on these vehicles ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa. (a) Twenty-three vehicles (15 Jeeps and 8 Land Rovers) have been purchased by Government and placed at the disposal of the 12 Deputy Commissioners (excepting Deputy Commissioner, Simla) in this State for furtherance of the 'Grow More Food' campaign, to enable co-ordinated visits to all parts of the district, however inaccessible otherwise.

(b) Rs. 1,42,300/- have been spent on their purchase.

Shri Virendra: May I know if the Deputy Commissioners had no vehicles. If so, why was it felt necessary to provide them with these vehicles ?

Minister: They were not provided with vehicles before.

Shri Virendra: What were they using during their tours in their respective districts ?

Minister: They were using their private cars.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know if any jeeps and rovers are being provided under the compost scheme ?

Chief Minister: These have been given to municipalities on loan basis. At present Government is not utilizing these trucks.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has the Government purchased these or not ?

Chief Minister : Government does not purchase these for its own use. These are being provided to the municipalities as a loan in kind.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know as to what work is being taken from these vehicles for the furtherance of the 'Grow More Food' campaign ?

Chief Minister : Jeeps were provided to the Deputy Commissioners when the work in connection with the 'Grow More Food' Campaign was entrusted to them. Now they are not entitled to any T. A. which they used to draw previously when they used their own cars. Moreover they could not take their cars right into the villages, while jeeps which have now been provided to them can easily be taken into the villages.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: In view of the fact that jeeps have been provided under the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, may I know if it is not possible to entrust some work in this connection to some of the good workers of the State Congress who can do this work more satisfactorily ?

Chief Minister : This work has been entrusted to the Deputy Commissioners in accordance with the directions issued by the Government of India. I cannot say as to who will be able to do this work better. But so far as the officers are concerned, they are responsible for the work entrusted to them

and in case of any negligence, action can be taken against them. However, we have invited the non-officials too to do some work in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Though it is far from my intention to say that the officers act in an irresponsible manner, yet I would like to know if the Government is prepared to seek the co-operation of non-officials for the furtherance of Grow More Food, Campaign ?

Minister : I have already said that the help of the non-officials is eagerly sought. We would gladly welcome anybody's help in this matter.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know if it is a fact that the jeeps that were purchased in this connection were second-hand, and have now become unserviceable and that the work is being hampered on this account ?

Minister : We have not received any such complaint.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the officers entrusted with this work have ever called any M. L. A. for consultation ?

Chief Minister : Sir, the demand was discussed only two days back and I presume everything connected with this Department has been discussed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if one jeep has been supplied to the Deputy Commissioner of each district or more ? Moreover, I want to know what instructions have been given to them in regard to tours etc., in this connection ?

Chief Minister : Reply has already been given. If, however, my hon. Friend desires to see the instructions that have been issued, a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House, if he gives notice.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS OF LAND SCHEME

***1586. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any programme to take up consolidation of holdings of land scheme in the State ; if so, the details thereof ;
- (b) the districts in which this scheme will be enforced together with its date ;
- (c) whether this scheme is proposed to be enforced in any of the border districts ; if not, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) The programme is under consideration.

(b) In all districts except Kangra and Simla soon after the 1st April, 1950.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (b).

Sardar Bachan Singh : If the Government really proposes to start the work of consolidation in almost all districts, may I know if any arrangement has been made to give training to the staff required for this purpose?

Minister : Yes. The officials belonging to the Co-operative Department are already trained. Training is being imparted to others.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Besides the old officials of the Co-operative Department, how many others have been appointed ?

Minister : I don't have the list with me, and it would be no use making a conjecture.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Does the Government propose to make some arrangement for the training of many more officials who are to be employed on this work ?

Minister : The staff of the Revenue Department will be utilized for this purpose.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the trained staff that the Government has already got, would be sufficient for starting the work of consolidation simultaneously in a number of districts ?

Minister : No more staff will have to be employed for this purpose, than the present sanctioned strength. Services of the patwaris of Revenue Department will be utilized in this connection.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the Government will start the work of consolidation in all those villages which deposit the money in advance ?

Minister : We shall first see where it is advisable to start the work first.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know the special reasons for dropping consolidation work in Kangra district ?

Minister : It is rather difficult to undertake this work in hilly tracts.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : What sort of difficulties is the hon. Minister referring to ?

Minister : The labour involved is generally not commensurate with the possible gains.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the turn of hilly areas ever come or not ?

Minister : Yes, towards the end.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government sufficient trained staff to start the work in all those villages, where people have deposited or are willing to deposit the money in advance ?

Minister : If the requisite money is forthcoming, work will not be allowed to suffer for want of staff.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If the people do not deposit the money in advance, what will the Government do ? Will it spend the money from its exchequer and later on realize it from the people concerned ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member had taken the trouble of going through the Budget, he would have known that a provision of Rs. 14 lakhs has been made for this purpose.

TUBE WELLS.

* 1621. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of tube wells bored in the Punjab after the partition;
- (b) the total cost of machines imported in this connection;
- (c) the total amount of boring charges incurred;
- (d) whether the tube wells are meant to benefit refugees only; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) 42.

- (b) 12 percussion drills have been ordered from Sweden. They have reached Bombay and very shortly they will be reaching this State. Total cost of these drills is Rs. 1,83,816 (C.I.F.) Bombay.
- (c) Requisite information is being collected.
- (d) The tube wells are meant for all, including refugees who pay the cost in advance.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I know the number of tube-wells that have been constructed in Amritsar district.

Minister : I haven't got the district-wise list with me. If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall let him know.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER**ACTION AGAINST PERSONS PUTTING IN EXAGGERATED CLAIMS FOR LANDS.**

* 2008 **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any cases have been detected by the Rehabilitation authorities in which displaced persons had put in exaggerated claims for lands in their applications to the Land Claims Officer to Government Punjab during the year 1948;
- (b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take against persons referred to above ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

- (b) It has been decided that prosecutions need not be launched in cases of exaggeration and that penalties should be levied by way of deductions of allotted areas on the scales noted below :—
 - (a) No action should be taken where exaggeration is less than 20%.
 - (b) where exaggeration is 25% to 50% Deduction of 20% from the allotment due (on the basis of jamabandi entries).
 - (c) where exaggeration is 50% to 75% Deduction of 40% of the land allotment due (on the basis of jamabandi entries).

(Minister for Rehabilitation)

(d) where exaggeration is more than 75%.

Deduction of 60% of the land allotment due (on the basis of jamabandi entries.)

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think this matter was referred to during yesterday's proceedings of the House.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether these penalty deductions will be made after giving the allottees in question the possession of the land or before that ?

Minister : Deductions will be made, as and when the possession of land is given to them, and not just now.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The other day the hon. Minister had stated that penalties would be levied on those who have filed cent per cent exaggerated claims. How is it that to-day he has changed his mind ?

Minister : How can any such penalties be levied on those, who are not entitled to even an inch of land. Prosecution will have to be launched against them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What will be done in the case of those who owned 100 acres but made a claim for 200 acres ?

Minister : This is clear from the reply to the original question. A deduction of 60% will be made from the area to which they are in fact entitled on the basis of the records.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What about those who owned one thousand acres of land in West Punjab, but filed a claim for two thousand acres ? Will the cut in their case also be 60 per cent ?

Chief Minister : Sir, that is a hypothetical question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLY OF CANAL WATER TO THE BARANI LAND OF VILLAGE KALE, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

435. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any representation by the land-owners of village Kale, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was received by the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, regarding supply of canal water to the barani lands of this village on or about 29. 6. 1949 ; if so, the action taken by the Canal Authorities in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. The request was duly considered and applicants were informed that supply of canal water to barani areas of these villages could only be given when more water is available.

SUPPLY OF CANAL WATER TO VILLAGE SIDHWAN, DISTT. AMRITSAR

436. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any representation by the land-owners of village Sidhwan Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was received by the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, on or about 29. 6. 1949 for the supply of the water to the Barani land of this village ; if so, the action taken by the canal authorities in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. The area in question has been included in the schemes for extension of irrigation which are under preparation.

SEPARATING CANAL OUTLET IN BASARKE DISTRIBUTARY

437. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether S. Atma Singh and other land-owners of village Narla, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, applied to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, for separating their share of canal outlet R. D. 41,888 Basarke Distributary;
- (b) whether the aforesaid land-owners also sent their representation for the same purpose as referred to above to the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar;
- (c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the canal authorities in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Proposals were investigated and included in the scheme for extension of irrigation under preparation.

SUPPLY OF CANAL WATER TO VILLAGE DODE, DISTT. AMRITSAR

438. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether S. Rajinder Singh and other land-owners of village Dode, Tahsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, applied to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, for the supply of canal water to irrigate Barani lands of this village ;
- (b) whether the main Bari Doab Canal passes through this village ;
- (c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the canal authorities in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes

(b) Yes.

(c) Area of the applicants has been included in the schemes for extension of irrigation under preparation.

**SARDAR NATHA SINGH RISALDAR AND OTHERS OF
VILLAGE POHUWIND.**

439. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether S. Natha Singh Risaldar and others of village Pohuwind, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar complained to the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar on 25. 9. 1949 that a certain canal Patwari had taken bribe from them ;
- (b) (i) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any enquiry was made ;
- (ii) who conducted the enquiry ;
- (iii) whether the complainants were called upon to furnish their evidence ; if so, when was the process served on them ;
- (iv) at what place their evidence was recorded ;
- (c) whether the reminders in the above case vide letters No. 1833, dated 9. 11 1949 addressed to the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division and No. 14 dated 14. 1. 1950 addressed to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar were sent by me but no action was taken and no complainant summoned uptill 31. 1. 1950 by the canal authorities; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No such complaint in this connection was ever received by the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division.

- (b) (i) In view of above, question does not arise,
- (ii) -do-
- (iii) -do-
- (iv) -do-
- (c) Yes, however, in view of the reply to (a) above no action regarding the complaint could be or was taken.

**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OFFICERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE
CANAL DEPARTMENT.**

440. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaint by S. Ujjagar Singh, village Headman and the other zamindars of village Thathi Jaimal Singh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, which was endorsed and forwarded by me vide my letter No. 1706 dated 12. 10. 49 to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, in which serious allegations were made against certain canal officers and other employees has come to the notice of the Government ;

- (b) (i) whether any enquiry was ordered in their case ; if so, who was appointed to make enquiry ;
- (ii) whether the complainants were served with a notice to appear before the investigating officer, if so, when it was issued and with what result ;
- (iii) whether the evidence of the complainants was ever recorded before 31. 1. 50 ;
- (c) The result of this enquiry and the action taken against the defaulters ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes ; but the allegations were not serious.

- (b) (i) Yes ; S. D. O. Khalra Sub Division.
- (ii) No. The allegations were enquired into at site by the S. D. O. in company with the Executive Engineer, in the presence of some 100 zamindars of village Rajoki and Thathi Jaimal Singh.
- (iii) It was not found necessary as the oral enquiry showed the allegations to be wrong. The zamindars of Thathi Jaimal Singh on being questioned as to who the Zilladar was, could not even point him out though he was present amongst them.
- (c) The allegations proved to be false.

SIDHWAN BRANCH OF SIRHIND CANAL.

441. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the work of digging of the the Sidhwan Branch of the Sirhind Canal has been taken in hand by the Government ;
- (b) what progress has been made so far in this connection ;
- (c) what parts of the Ferozepore district will be irrigated by this Branch ;
- (d) whether the Grey Canals in the Ferozepore district will be fed by this Branch ; if so, to what extent ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

- (b) 75 per cent of the excavation work has been completed. Masonary works are still to be undertaken.
 - (c) & (d) All the area (roughly 4,25,000 acres) at present being irrigated from Grey Canals will be irrigated from Sidhwan Branch. In addition new channels will be constructed for irrigating 45000 acres area in the Grey Canal tract.
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SALE OF EVACUEE MOVABLE PROPERTY

442. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount realised by the Government as a result of the sale proceeds of movable evacuee property from each village of the Bhikiwind police station of Amritsar district during 1948 and 1949 respectively ;
- (b) whether two cows were given away on evaluation by the Naib Tahsildar (R) Patti, while auctioning the evacuee movable property at village Bhagwanpura; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, to whom these cows were given ; and whether permission for doing so was obtained from the Government ;
- (d) the provision of law under which the disposal of any movable property is permitted at evaluation ;
- (e) whether any receipts were issued to the buyers in connection with sale mentioned in para (a) above ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Statement showing the amount realized by Government as sale proceeds of movable evacuee property from each village of Bhikiwind Police Station is attached.

- (b) **Yes.** Two cows were given on evaluation on the advice of the Panchyat Committee concerned in accordance with the general instructions issued by the Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation, vide para 2 of his wireless message dated 27. 11. 47 to all Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Commissioners, Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General of Police, (copy attached). From May 1949, however, the sale of movable property on evaluation to private individuals has been altogether stopped.

- (c) The cows were given to the following displaced persons.

- (1) S. Sartaj Singh of village Sur Singh,
- (2) S. Gopal Singh Sub-Inspector (Custodian) Patti.

In view of the Government instruction referred to in (b) above, sanction of Government was necessary.

- (d) As referred to in para (b) above.
- (e) In rural areas the formal issue of receipts was not practicable at that time due to abnormal conditions and shortage of printed receipt books. Signatures of the buyers were obtained on the auction lists in the presence of the refugees and panchayat committees concerned signifying payment of the amounts. Receipts are, however, now being issued to the buyers even in rural areas.

Statement showing the amount realised as a result of sale proceeds of movable evacuee property from villages of Bhikiwind Police Station, District Amritsar.

Year 1949.

| Name of the village. | | Amount realised. |
|----------------------|-----|------------------|
| Phouwind | ... | Rs. 2160—0—0 |
| Sandpura | ... | Rs. 324—0—0 |
| Sur Singh | ... | Rs. 4280—5—0 |
| Sugga | ... | Rs. 3637—8—0 |
| Bhawanpura | ... | Rs. 4064—10—0 |
| Kalsian Kalan | ... | Rs. 1382—8—0 |
| Total | ... | Rs. 15848—15—0 |

Year 1948.

-Nil-

Statement in reply to part (b).

Distribute to refugees on general advice of Advisory Committee all articles urgently required by refugees for instance cloth and clothes, article of use in agriculture, grain and household—articles stop. Cattles should be given in lieu of taccavi and evaluated on general advice of Advisory Committee.

RECOVERY OF SALE OF MOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY IN TARN TARAN AND PATTI TEHSILS

443. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Revenue Officer working under the Rehabilitation Department in the Patti and Tarn Taran tehsils of Amritsar, was appointed for the recovery of the movable evacuee property with the help of the police force during 1948 and 1949 respectively ;
- (b) (i) the total sale proceeds of the property referred to above which was recovered and auctioned from each of the villages of Jeobalapalian Monochahal Zail of Tarn Taran Tehsil during each of the above mentioned years ;
- (ii) the total sale proceeds of the property referred to above which was recovered and auctioned from each of the villages of Khalra Police Station of Patti Tehsil during each of the above mentioned years?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The total amount realized on account of the sale proceeds of the evacuee property from each village of Jeobala and Monochahal Zail of Tarn Taran Tehsil is given in the statement enclosed.

(ii) Similar statement in respect of the villages in Khalra Police Station of Patti Tehsil is attached.

| Sr. No. | Name of Zail. | Year 1948 | Year 1949 | Total |
|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| 1. | Monochahal | 2409/- | — | 2409/- |
| 2. | Geobala | 2722/- | — | 2722/- |
| | Total | 5131/- | — | 5131/- |

Statement showing total sale proceeds of the property recovered and auctioned from each of the villages of Khalra Police Station, Tehsil Patti.

Year 1948

| | | |
|---------|-------|-------------|
| Village | Narli | Rs. 474—0—0 |
|---------|-------|-------------|

Year 1949

| | | |
|---------|------------|--------------|
| Village | Basarke | Rs. 1021—0—0 |
| | Chak Bamba | Rs. 35—0—0 |
| | Total: | Rs. 1056—0—0 |

SALE OF MOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY AND ISSUE OF RECEIPTS

444. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the sale proceeds of the evacuee property auctioned in each of the villages of Patti Police Station, District Amritsar during 1948 and 1949 respectively ;

(b) whether any receipts were issued to the buyers ; if so, the total number of receipts issued ; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) A statement showing the sale proceeds of the evacuee property auctioned in each of the villages of Patti Police Station, District Amritsar during 1948 and 1949 is attached.

(b) In rural areas the formal issue of receipts was not practicable at that time due to abnormal conditions and shortage of printed receipt books. Signatures of the buyers were, however, obtained on the auction lists in the presence of the Refugee and Panchayat Committees concerned signifying payment of the amounts. Receipts are, however, now being issued to the buyers even in rural areas.

Statement showing sale proceeds of the evacuee property auctioned in each of the villages of Patti Police Station, District Amritsar.

| | | |
|------|------|-----------------------------|
| Year | 1948 | Nil. |
| Year | 1949 | Village Sabrah Rs. 1433—0—0 |

SALE OF MOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY IN WALTOHA POLICE STATION VILLAGES

445. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the sale proceeds of the movable evacuee property recovered from each of the villages of Waltoha Police Station of Amritsar district during 1948 and 1949 ?

The hon. Dr Lehna Singh Sethi : A statement showing the sale proceeds of the movable property recovered from each village Waltoha police station of Amritsar District during 1948 and 1949 is attached herewith.

Statement showing the sale proceeds of the movable evacuee property recovered from each village of Waltoha Police Station during 1948-49.

Year 1948.

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Bahadur Nagar | ... Rs. 985—0—0 |
| *Dassuwal | ... Rs. 2763—0—0 |
| Mane Ke | ... Rs. 1394—0—0 |
| Jund | ... Rs. 1702—0—0 |

* Three bullocks were given to the refugees in lieu of taccavi loans vide F. C. (Reh.) East Punjab letter No. 1971 of 27/29th November, 1947 and the amount of Rs. 540/- recorded in the Bullocks Taccavi accounts of the Tehsil.

Year 1949.

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Waltoha | Rs. 1459—1—0 | Khemkaran | Rs. 1959—8—0 |
| Algon | Rs. 1303—0—0 | Mast Garh | Rs. 187—0—0 |
| Mac Wala | Rs. 200—0—0 | Bhura Kona | Rs. 1112—0—0 |

POLICE POST AT MAKHI KALAN IN PATTI TEHSIL

446. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any punitive police post has been quartered at village Makhi Kalan, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, if so, since when;
- (b) (i) the sanctioned strength of the police force for the post ;
- (ii) the actual strength of the police force posted at this post which remained present in this village since the date of its posting upto 28. 2. 50 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

- (c) the period for which each of the police employees posted at this post remained present in this village since the date of his posting upto 28. 2. 50 ;
- d) the period for which each of the police employees of this post remained absent from this village in connection with the cases of this village registered at Bhikiwind Police Station and other police stations, in which the inhabitants of this village were involved, since his posting to this post upto 28. 2. 50 ;
- (e) the periods for which each of the police employees of this post remained absent from the village post for reasons other than those mentioned in part (d) above upto 28. 2. 50?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.: (a) Yes. From 1. 12. 1949.

- (b) (i) 1 Assistant Sub Inspector, 5 Foot Constables including 1 Foot Constable on account of contingency reserve.
- (ii) 1 Assistant Sub Inspector and 4 Foot Constables excluding one Foot Constable on account of contingency reserve who remained posted in the District Police Lines.
- (c) Whole of the period since posting.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Nil.

POLICE POST IN TOWN SUR SINGH, PATTI TEHSIL

447. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any punitive police post has been quartered at Town Sur Singh, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar ; if so since when ;
- (b) the sanctioned strength of the police force posted there ;
- (c) actual strength of the police force which remained posted during each month ;
- (d) the period for which each of the police employees posted at this post remained absent from duty in this town in connection with the cases of this village registered at the local police station, Bhikhiwind, and other police stations in which the inhabitants of this town were involved, since his posting to this post upto 28. 2. 1950;
- (e) the period for which each of the police employees of this post remained absent from his duty for reasons other than those mentioned in part (d) above upto 28. 2. 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes. From 1. 11. 1949.

- (b) 1 A.S.I., 1 H.C. and 9 F.Cs. including 1 F.C. on account of contingency reserve.
- (c) 1 A.S.I., 1 H.C. and 8 F.Cs. excluding 1 F.C. on account of contingency reserve who remained posted in the District Police Lines.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Nil.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE VARNALA

448. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the allotment of land at village Varnala, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar has been completed under the quasi permanent schemes ;
- (b) the grade of the land of this village ;
- (c) whether any land-owners of village Theh Shekham, Tehsil Kasur district Lahore (Pakistan) were allotted land in this village temporarily during the year 1947-48 ; if so, their total number and grade of the land of village Theh Shekham referred to above ;
- (d) whether any of the persons referred to in part (c) above have been disturbed as a result of the review of cases ; if so, their number and the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether these disturbed persons were allotted land permanently ;
- (f) whether any new persons who were neither the temporary allottees nor the local colonists have been allotted land in this village as a result of review of the allotment of land ; if so, their number and the reason for doing so in each case ;
- (g) whether any of the persons referred to in part (d) above, submitted representation to the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar protesting against their disturbance ; if so, the action taken by the authorities concerned ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

- (b) 1st.
- (c) Yes. Their number was 17. Grade of Treh Shekham . 1st.
- (d) No.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) No.
- (g) No.

REINSTATEMENT OF DISPLACED MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF GURGAON DISTRICT

449. Pandit Jiwan Lal : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

- (a) the number of muslims of Gurgaon district employed in different departments of the Government and the local District Boards who neither opted for Pakistan nor actually left India, but were displaced from their respective services in the communal disturbances of 1947 ;
- (b) the number, names [and description of those, if any, who have since been reinstated ; if not, whether the Government intend to reinstate them and if so, in what order ;
- (c) the number of those who have been paid their arrears of pay for the period for which they worked prior to being displaced ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 79. (b) 43 as per list attached.¹ The question of employment of the remaining persons is under the consideration of the various departments concerned. (c) 39 have been paid. The question of payment to the remaining persons is receiving the attention of the departments concerned.

HODAL BHADAS ROAD IN THE GURGAON DISTRICT

450. Pandit Jiwan Lal : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that work on Hodal Bhadas Road was begun last year ; if so, the reasons for stoppage of the work thereon ;
- (b) the amount of money paid to the landowners as compensation for the land acquired for the road ;
- (c) the amount of compensation so far paid or arrears yet to be paid to the landowners in whose fields pits were dug to supply earth for the road ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given to starred question No. 1732¹ asked by Mehta Ranbir Singh.

THEFTS OF RAILWAY GOODS AT FARIDABAD AND BALLABGARH RAILWAY STATIONS

451. Pandit Jiwan Lal : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that frequent thefts on the running goods trains have occurred and also on those stopped at Faridabad and Ballabgarh Railway Stations of the G. I. P. ;
- (b) the number of cases registered, detected or convicted through the assistance of local police ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a gang was unearthed behind these activities ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.*

(c) No.

¹Vide annexure.

*kept in the Library.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

EDUCATION.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,60,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Education.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,60,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Education.

I have received 12 notices of cut motions. I will not take into account cut motions Nos. 13 and 14 as they were not received in time. Cut motion No. 1 relates to a particular item and No. 2 suggests a token cut and raises a general discussion on the policy of the Government underlying this demand. Following the previous practice, I would allow this cut motion to be moved.

An hon. Member : Is there a y time limit, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : If the House agrees, I will allow 15 minutes to the mover of the motion and 10 minutes to others.

Hon. Members : Yes.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I want to know, Sir, whether under the Rules any time limit can be fixed for amendments, resolutions and Bills ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes it can be done by leave of the House.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I may point out, Sir, that on amendments, resolutions and Bills a time limit can be fixed with the unanimous approval of the House and even if one member objects, it cannot be done.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : In view of the fact that the voice of the hon. Member is not reaching us on account of rain, is it possible to provide a loud speaker ?

Mr. Speaker : I shall see if that can be done.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex. Member West Punjab Assembly representing North-eastern Towns, General, Urban) : I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Sir, on the day when Budget was being discussed, I pointed out to the Government that the amount provided in the Budget for Education is comparatively much more than the provision made for other beneficent departments. Such an objection carries weight when we see that the amount provided for Education is 46 per cent of the total money allocated for beneficent departments for the next year. When I drew the attention of the Chief Minister to this fact, he said while replying to the debate that whenever the Government makes any achievement even it is subjected to criticism. I have never heard of such a ridiculous reply from any responsible Minister or the Chief Minister of a State. It is not the question whether Government has made any achievement in the field of Education but the question really is why preference has not been shown to the various beneficent departments in the allocation of funds. It is manifestly wrong to make disproportionate allocation of funds and the Government should make endeavour to see how they can approach the poor people who are wallowing in poverty in order to do something for their economic upliftment. I would not have the least objection if perceptible expansion had been made in the Budget of the Education Department because I feel that education of children is important for the future welfare of the State and the education of adults is

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt]

particularly essential for the very existence of a young democracy. But I know that the Central Government has not even been able to launch the programme of the Post War Educational Development Scheme and has been compelled to make a revision of its programme thereby making considerable curtailment in the plans for educational expansion on account of financial difficulties. I must subscribe to the view that ample funds should be spared for Education but at the same time I feel that the Government should make full assesment of the requirements of the State, determine the priority and work out proper allocation and distribution of funds on equitable basis. For example, what is needed is to impart technical education to produce skilled workers in various arts and craft for cottage industries so that they may be able to earn a living wage. If money is spent for the establishment of technical Colleges, Government will at least provide civilised living to hundreds of thousands of people of lower class and thus add to human welfare. It is, therefore, essential that the Government should make an adequate provision for the establishment of cottage industries.

Sir, I am compelled to say that I am not at all satisfied by the reply given by the hon. Minister. Any how if he is prepared to appoint a committee, I would strongly suggest that it should go into the question of proportionate distribution of funds for the various beneficent departments. If this be not possible, there is no reason why we should not have recourse to raising additional revenues to meet the needs of our different departments. I am one of those who honestly believe that we have not yet exhausted all sources of income. It is wrong for some people to say that Government cannot lay hands on adequate funds. I think we can raise as much money as we like, introduce as many reforms and remove as many complaints as we desire. As a matter of fact some of my friends are not aware that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee which was set up by the Government sometime back gave very useful suggestions. Unfortunately the report of this Committee is not yet ready and that is why it could not be presented to the House otherwise the House would have known that there are numerous ways of adding to our revenues. I very well know that there are men who have a habit of opposing whenever a new tax is imposed or an increase in some existing tax is effected. We will have to educate them on proper lines. There might have been some justification in avoiding taxation when we were ruled by foreign rulers but that time is over and we are a free people now. The present Government is our own and every pie that we give will be spent for our good. We should no longer conceal our sources of income with a view to deceive the Government. But the pity is that this Government has not taken any steps to change the old mentality of the people. If and when it is changed I dare say that there are so many sources in our State which can be tapped for raising more money. If we fail to add to our income I have no doubt that the future of our education may be very dark.

Sir, I do admit that we have progressed in certain matters so far as our education is concerned and we are thankful to the education Department to that extent as not to do so will be an act of ingratitude on our part. Our province or State was a mutilated province. We have left our educational centres like the University, Government College, Mission College and so many other Colleges behind at Lahore. We had to establish a new University and new Colleges and for this work, I have the pleasure to offer my sincere thanks to the Government and its Education Department. But here there is one thing which should not be lost sight of. I am greatly disappointed to find that greater benefits could have accrued to our people if funds set apart for education had been properly utilised. A lot of money appears to have been wasted in the Department. Grants-in-aid have been given to some

colleges which did not deserve and some very important things have been left undone. There are salaries of some officers which we cannot touch and what pinches me most is the difference between the salaries of the various professors. Some are paid something like three thousand rupees where others do not get even three hundred rupees a month. I don't think anybody can explain away such a colossal difference. If such conditions continue in our province it may not be possible for us to make any considerable progress in the field of education. The countries which are today leading the world do their best to keep their workers pleased. If we take the example of Russia we find that there even an unskilled manual worker is paid something like 250 or 300 roubles a month. Here not to talk of unskilled men even highly educated people who are responsible for educating our youth, in which I include the moulding of their character, are given a despicable wage. I certainly do not agree with the Government if it thinks that the amelioration of the condition of teachers in private schools and colleges is not its concern. It is the duty of the Government to see that the private schools and colleges conform to the standards set by the Government in Government schools and colleges. There is no reason why the teachers in whatever schools or colleges they work should not get enough to keep their flesh and bones together particularly when they work hard from morning to evening doing practicals and teaching evening classes. I am in a position to say that many of them are better educated and more informed than even us legislators. They certainly deserve much better treatment than we are giving them. These poor people are making representation after representation and so many deputations wait on the Ministers but no body pays any heed to their demands. I am giving timely warning to the Government and it should take stock of the situation immediately. I would request the hon. Minister for Education who is fortunately present in the House to see that the disparity of income of the teachers is removed at once. I dare say that if the Government fails in this task these very teachers who are victims of injustice will take things in their own hands and set the principle of unequal distribution right.

Sir, when we were carrying on our fight for independence we asked our students to come out of the schools and colleges as the education that was being imparted to them was useless, but I am grieved to say that the same old dirty sytem of education is still being pursued.

A few days back, the hon. Chief Minister paid a visit to Amritsar. In the course of his speech there, he said that the present system of education was very defective. On reading his speech, I wondered why the Chief Minister, who was the Head of the Government and had full power did not change the system if he considered it to be unsuitable and defective. It is most regrettable that he should feel a certain thing to be wrong but still he does not change it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is really very regrettable.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, my hon. Friend completed his education long ago. His sons too might have taken to some work after receiving their education but he should be concerned with the education of all the children of his village.

Nothing has been done to adopt some such system of education by which the new generation might be educated according to the Indian civilisation. In this connection, I wish to refer to the system of examinations prevalent in our schools and colleges. This is most unsuitable and requires to be immediately changed. All the educationists are unanimous in this respect.

Mr. Speaker : One minute more.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : You would perhaps remember Sir, that in the old Assembly, one of the members spoke on his motion for full three hours. I should be permitted to mention about the main questions connected with this Department.

I was submitting, Sir, that the system of education should be completely changed. The University Commission appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. Radhakrishnan has already recommended in the reforms suggested by it that the system of examinations should be completely changed. The present system causes a great strain on the brains of the students and keeps them under constant fear. Quarterly examinations are held in every school and the promotion or failure of a student should depend on the results of all these examinations taken together. The marks obtained by a student in all the house examinations should be totalled for determining the success or failure of a student.

Mr. Speaker : I have already allowed the hon Member to speak for five minutes more than his normal time.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : On a point of order, Sir. I consider it my constitutional right to be permitted to speak without any time limit. Previously also the mover of a resolution or a motion had been permitted to speak without any restriction of time. I request you to give your considered ruling on this point because I feel that I cannot be asked to resume my seat. If you order me to sit down, I shall certainly obey, but I shall treat it as your order and not a ruling. I have requested you to give your ruling because such a situation arises every now and then. No member can discuss any department of the Government properly, if he is not permitted to speak for more than fifteen or twenty minutes.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I pointed out at the very commencement of my speech that under the rules no time limit can be fixed for amendments, resolutions and Bills.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If I had interpreted the rules strictly, the hon. Member would not have been allowed to move his cut motion. Strictly speaking it was Mehta Ranbir Singh who should have been allowed to speak first. But as the past practice of raising discussion on the general policy of the Government underlying the demand before the House was approved by the House and following the sense of the House I allowed the hon. Member to move his cut motion. As regards the time limit it was fixed in accordance with the wish of the House. I have already given the hon. Member 5 minutes more since he was championing the cause of teachers.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : That means that you have not given any ruling on the point raised by me. If you order me to resume my seat that is another thing, but in the absence of any ruling I would like to continue my speech.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member knows it very well that an established convention is being followed of allowing a debate to be raised on the general policy of the Government and the strict interpretation of the rules is being relaxed. If the House wants me to follow the rules strictly, I shall be glad to do so. In that case the House will not be able to discuss the general policy of the Government and I will ask the hon. Member whose cut motion appears first on the order paper to move his motion. Today it was Mehta Ranbir Singh who should have been allowed to move his motion and not the hon. Member who is now speaking.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Datt : I seek your guidance, Sir, on the particular point raised by me as to whether the Speaker constitutionally and under the rules is authorised to ask any Member to discontinue his speech while moving an amendment or a resolution or a Bill. It is a practice in the House of Commons that if the House wants to fix a time limit on these occasions, it can be done by the unanimous wish of the House and not a single Member objecting to it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I know there are occasions when approval of the whole House is necessary. But in this case as I have repeated more than once, the House wanted that priority of cut motions might be disregarded and only that cut motion which sought to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Government should be allowed. The other day the policy of Grow-More-Food was discussed although there were other items in the demand also but the Members who had given notices of cut motions on other items did not press their motions. Similarly the Rehabilitation policy of the Government was discussed. The hon. Member is unnecessarily laying stress on the strict interpretation of the rules. I would ask him to respect the wish of the House and not press for his right to continue his speech. If he does so, other hon. Members will also press for their right and there will be no end to that.

Demand under consideration, amendment moved :—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100/—.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, it is for the first time after India became an independent Sovereign Republic, that we are discussing the demand for education. We have to look at this demand in the light of our being a free nation. Freedom in the real sense means freedom from hunger, freedom from fear, freedom from ignorance and freedom from disease. We have to look at this demand from the point of view of freedom from ignorance. If the policy of the Government is to make the rich, richer and the poor poorer and to give more facilities to the urbanites, surely we are heading again towards slavery and not towards freedom. I have deeply thought over this matter and have compared the situation in our state with that obtaining in other states. I find that people here are heavily burdened with taxes while they are not given adequate facilities for the education of their children. Bombay Government spends 17 per cent of the total revenue receipts on education and Madras Government spends 18 per cent of the total revenue receipts on education. On the other hand, our own Government spends slightly more than 11 per cent of the total budget on education. And then this amount is so divided that only a small part is spent on the education of general public. Out of this total amount only fifty per cent will be spent on primary education and the rest will be spent on college and secondary education, and the University. The Bombay Government, on the other hand, spends

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61 per cent of the total amount earmarked for education, on primary education and Madras Government spends 62 per cent of the total amount in that direction. Now, Sir, you can well imagine how our Government which professes to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, is actually exploiting his name.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No such remarks, please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I am conscious of the fact that our Government is faced with difficulties. But our national leader Mahatma Gandhi has also given us the talisman of all difficulties. I would quote him :—

I give you a talisman whenever you are in doubt. When self becomes too much with you try the following experiment. Recall the face of the poorest and the most helpless man whom you have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he be able to gain in any way control over his own life and destiny. In other words, will it lead to swaraj or self rule for the hungry and also spiritually starved millions of your country. Then you will find your doubts and self melting away.

Sir, it is understandable that the Government has financial difficulties. But these difficulties are of its own creation because large sums have been earmarked for General Administration, at the cost of Beneficent Departments. And whatever little is earmarked for those departments is not properly spent. There is a proposal for starting a Government college at Hissar. I am at a loss to understand why the local people of that place should not realise their duty towards their children. They can start a private college over there. It is perhaps due to the fact that three hon. Ministers belong to Hissar. But the hon. Members will agree with me that behind this move is working a Bania mentality due to which people do not realise their duty to their children.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : This district has contributed largest share of soldiers for the Military.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : People who realise their duty make efforts to start private colleges even in rural areas. I know of two such instances. One college has been started in my own district in a village called Sadhar and the other at Mahilpur in Hoshiarpur district.

Sir, another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is that the building of the Government High School Hissar has been shifted to Dalhousie.

An hon Member : It is not the building but the school that has been shifted. (*Laughter*)

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, what I wish to say is that the school could have been shifted to a place where it would have been more useful. For instance it could go to some rural place in Ferozepore. That district is paying more land revenue and so it should have been provided with this amenity. But this has not been done. Here I should say a Punjabi proverb aptly applies.

ਖਾਣ ਪੀਣ ਨੂੰ ਬਾਂਦਰੀ ਤੇ ਡੰਡੇ ਖਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਹਾ ।

खान पीन नू बांदरी ते डंडे खान नू रिह ।

I have little time at my disposal; still I would appeal to the hon. Chief Minister that more attention should be paid to the education of those from whom we get a major portion of the revenues. He has the finances of the State at his disposal. He may spend it in any way he likes. But my submission is that the distribution should be fair. More attention should be paid to millions of poor persons whose contribution to the revenues is the largest. The poor villagers are unable to help themselves as compared with the comparatively well-placed people of the cities. They left to themselves cannot provide educational and such other facilities to their children. So it devolves upon the Government to see that the common man is provided with all sort of facilities. My submission is that the money that we obtain from the people in the form of land revenues etc. should be repaid to them in a better way and the distribution should be just and fair. The Government should spend as little as possible on administration. Large portions of money should be spent for the benefit of the masses.

Sir, it is a well-known fact that our country is steeped in ignorance. In this connection I wish to state my experience in Simla. A few days back when I was walking on a road I found a person throwing grams before monkeys and crows. I had a talk with him and he told me that he was doing so because he held the crows and monkeys, in high esteem. And also as an 'upai' (उपाय), to keep the Government safe. Such ignorance and superstition exist. And I consider it to be the duty of the State to try to remove it by giving education to the people at large. Superstitions exist where there is no education. So more attention should be paid to educate people.

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I feel that of all the departments that have come under discussion in the House, Education Department is the most important one. Because it is by this department that we have to make or unmake the future of our State. The amount spent on education is properly spent. But we should see that educational facilities are provided in all parts of the country. There is no doubt that provisions are made in the Budget for education and some funds have been provided for this department. But considering the importance of this department the provisions do not seem to be sufficient. I wish to submit that the population of our state is 1,21,81,708. The amount that is spent on education, including primary and college education is rupees 1,78,60,200. That means that we will be spending only rupee one and a half per person on education. This is a very meagre amount as compared with other countries. The number of villages in our state is 15573 and the number of schools is 2898. The result is that for a population of 4204 we have got one primary school. For girls the number of primary schools is 990 which means that for a population of 12305 we have one primary girls school. From these facts and figures we can judge that if the progress of education in the state goes on with this slow speed how long will it take to give primary education to all the persons in our State. I feel that the Government would say that there is the difficulty of finances. But I think the people of Punjab would be glad if their Government decides that education will be given to them all provided they agree to contribute towards its expenses. No Punjabi will have any objection to such a scheme. We will voluntarily agree to any education cess that might be imposed for the purpose. Here I wish to give vent to my feelings with regard to a decision that was arrived at sometime back in connection with education in the State. Without going into other aspects of the decision I wish to submit that the so-called Sachar Formula has not been put into practice. There is no doubt that it did not meet the points of view of some people. But still my

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submission is that the decision which has received the consent and good wishes of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel has not been put into practice. No efforts have been made to introduce the principles of teaching upon which it is based. So long as no decision is arrived at with regard to the language through which education is to be given to a child no progress worth the name can be made. I strongly appeal that this decision whether good or bad should be immediately put into practice.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is with regard to the policy that is being followed by the education department in the matter of Text Books. No one likes the present policy. It is a matter of surprise that the 'no change ban' is still in force. No one can deny that new books are available in the market and they are quite good. I wish to submit that the complaint of the education department that no books are available is quite wrong so far as Punjabi is concerned. I know and the Education Department is also aware of the fact that in Punjabi there are many new sets which have been shown to the Advisory Board for approval. Many sets have been published for use in the libraries. I regret to bring it to the notice of the House that no proper attention is paid to the need for new and up-to-date books for use in the schools and libraries. There are some vested interests who wish to keep their hold and who do not want any change in this direction.

Well, Sir, the doubts which I have given expression to on the floor of the House, are not unfounded. I can adduce positive proofs in support of them. I would draw the attention of the House to a circular issued by the Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division, on April 1, 1949, to all the Headmasters of schools that they must adopt in their schools certain courses of instruction published by certain publishers and any contravention of the orders would involve them into trouble. Let me quote the exact words of the circular. It [*inter alia*] says that "any schools violating the orders will be liable for severe action." Consequently the headmasters of even private schools were compelled to prescribe the same text books which the Education Department wanted them. The action of the Department was tantamount to extension of patronage to certain publishers who made money out of the books which the department had ordered to be prescribed. They charged prices out of all proportion to the cost and exploited the advantage conferred on them by the Education Department. In this connection I would draw the attention of the House to an extract appearing in the Tribune of August 6, 1949 on the subject. It is as follows :—

"Private schools that enjoy the privilege of prescribing books other than text sometimes lend themselves to exploitation by interested parties. In a local school here, for instance one book on English Grammar brought out by a Delhi publisher was prescribed for the students of the ninth class and another book on the same subject by the same publisher was prescribed for the same students when they were promoted to the tenth class, regardless of the fact that either book was meant to cover the entire matriculation course. Between themselves both cost the students' parents between Rs. 8/- and Rs. 9/-. It is a notorious fact that these subsidiary books are seldom used for class work but are prescribed more to oblige the publisher or the author or both."

This extract speaks volumes how publishers are made to loot the poor parents of the students. I think the Education Department cannot bring about progress in the country if this state of affairs continues. I would request the Government to go carefully into the matter and set things right. Then I have to invite the attention of the Government to the miserable

plight of those refugee writers who eke out their living by writing books and selling them after publication. In this connection I would make a mention of Sardar Karm Singh Gangawala. Books written by him were approved by the Education Department of the North West Frontier Province and were prescribed in the schools there. His case has been before the Education Department of this State for the last one year, but no decision has been arrived at so far by the authorities. I fail to understand when his books had been on the approved list of the N. W. F. P. Education Department, what is the obstacle in the way of our Education Department to approve them. I hope the Government would pay a sympathetic consideration to the case of such writers.

Then I must bring to the notice of the Government the miserable condition of the teachers in this State. This question has been before the Government several times, but I am constrained to remark that nothing tangible has so far been done to ameliorate their poor lot. I may point out that now a days when certain political parties and Trade Unions can create difficulties for the Government, the teachers in whose hands lies the moulding of the character of children and young boys, can bring about revolution in the country by feeding these youngsters on certain philosophies which aim at eradicating poverty from the country. I would impress upon the Government the desirability of taking effective measures to better the hard lot of these teachers, and make them contented.

Besides this, there is an important matter to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Minister in charge of Education portfolio. The schools in the border areas are having very bad time. Their financial position is very weak. They go from door to door to collect funds and run the institutions, but it is very hard for them to pull on. They deserve the immediate attention of the Government in the matter of financial assistance. I hope Government would consider their case sympathetically and extend adequate financial help to them.

Then I want the Government to make liberal grants to the educational institutions like the Lyallpur Khalsa College Jullundur, to enable them to rehabilitate themselves. It goes to their credit that they are continuing without Government help. But this does not mean that they should break before Government extend a helping hand to them. I would request the hon. Minister for Education to give financial aid to them out of the amount of rupees three lakhs earmarked for the purpose. With these words I close my remarks.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*) : Mr. Speaker, I may point out that 235577 boys and 89400 girls are studying in our primary schools. If we add them the total comes to 314977. But this total is one sixth of the number of children who should actually be reading in the primary schools, when the population of the State of Punjab is kept in view. In other words the percentage of children in primary schools comes to something over 16 per cent. Now, Sir, for this purpose our Government gives financial aid to the local bodies to the tune of 38 lakhs. But if we desire that every child of the Punjab should become literate, it would mean that Government would have to provide money six times the amount which is at present being earmarked for the primary education. But from the attitude of the Government, we find that it is inclined more to provide educational facilities to the urban than the rural people. It is no exaggeration if I say that Government and their officers are devoting more attention to the educational uplift of the

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urban people than the dumb millions inhabiting the rural areas. I am in possession of figures which clearly show that the number of primary schools as it used to be during the British regime, has dwindled down under the present administration. Besides, when I hear that Government intend to change the very system of education, which was prevalent under the British, I seriously begin to think how this is going to happen. In what manner Government will succeed to achieve this end? Then, we hear that a model school for basic training has been opened at Jagraon and the number of students admitted there, is sixty, and that the scheme of the Government is to set up such like 25 institutions in the punjab. According to their calculation Hissar will be next venue for opening a school of this type and in this way their intention is to open such training schools at the rate of one every year. Keeping this calculation in view one can safely arrive at the conclusion that it will take the Government at least 100 years to introduce compulsory education in the punjab. In other words we can say that that happy day will come after a century when every rural person will become literate to the standard of primary education at least. Now, Sir, in England, Russia or America, they do not have primary education course extending to four years only. They have their elementary education systems which extend to eight years. Here they differ from us. Besides, the children are given free and compulsory primary or elementary education. Not only this. In England and America arrangements exist for the provision of free medical aid, milk etc. to the indigent children. It is being said that India has constituted itself into an Independent Sovereign Republic. Sir, through you, I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister for Education and the Director of Public Instruction who is also present in the official gallery that they have not so far formulated any programme or scheme by which they could prove that during these few years they have succeeded in imparting primary education to the ignorant rural masses. I say this from my experience that the education whether primary, basic or elementary that is being imparted in the schools of our State has not been in the least instrumental in making a pupil literate in the true sense of the word. Even if real education upto 4th primary were given and if the whole of the income of our State were spent on imparting such education to our ignorant masses, I think nobody would have objected to it. But I am really constrained to remark that some of my hon. Friends complain that more money has been provided for education. Perhaps they do not know what is happening in the world outside. They are unmindful of the fact that medical Science has been Socialized in the progressive countries of the world. Other countries have made rapid strides in the construction of roads. If I remember aright the road mileage comes to 4 miles in every square mile land. So far as our country in general and our State in particular is concerned, I wish to point out that no such arrangements exist here. On the one hand we find such conditions, while on the other we find some hon. Members in favour of imposing different types of cesses. I live with the people of rural areas. I know their difficulties full well. These poor people know that the local rates in the district boards have been doubled. What I wish to point out is this that we cannot and will not succeed in giving education to people by employing such tactics.

Now about the colleges. May I know as to how many colleges and secondary schools are there in our State? So far as the European schools are concerned, poor people cannot afford to send their children to such schools. These schools have become just like business concerns and the managing Committees have begun making money from such schools. They are carrying on their business and are thus making huge profits. What we have to

see in this connection is this : whether any arrangements exist for imparting education to the general public. If a State does not guarantee to educate its masses, then in that State there can be no difference between slavery and freedom. If we compare our condition with other States, we will find that Madras with a population of about 5 crores and 3 lakhs has a revenue of about 55 crores. In our State which is a backward State and the financial position of which is very unsound, the average tax percentage is Rs13/- per head in comparison to Rs11/- per head in Madras. It is being said that the resources of our State where one-third of its population consists of refugees have not been tapped and that if it had been done, it would have been possible to levy more taxes. Perhaps my hon. Friends holding this view are unmindful of the fact that poor people are already over-burdened with the taxes and and it would not be fair to oppress them with more and more taxes. I am of the opinion that our Government is sleeping over these matters of vital importance.

If my hon. Friends were to study the Budget they would find that a sum of Rs. 1,78,00,000, has been ear-marked for education and Rs. 2,48,00,000. for police. (An hon. Member: That is meant for defence). Perhaps the hon Member does not know that police does not come under the defence, it is the army which comes under defence and not the police. In the State of Madras in 1947—1948 a sum of Rs. 6,99,00,000 was provided for education and Rs. 3,98,00,000 for police. It is clear from this that there existed a difference of three crores of rupees only between the expenditure on police and education. In the State of Bombay in 1948—49 a sum of Rs. 5,93,00,000 was earmarked for police and Rs. 7, 93, 00, 000 for education. If we compare the State of Madras with our State we will find that prohibition has been enforced there very strictly while our State derives an income of crores of rupees from liquor and opium. It is the biggest sacrifice on the part of the Madras Government to lose its revenue to the tune of rupees 16 crores by introducing prohibition in the State. In spite of this great loss, the Madras Government has made a provision of Rs. 10,00,00,000 for education out of its total revenue of Rs. 55,00,00,000. It is crystal clear from this that the Madras Government is spending one-fifth of its total revenue on education. On the other hand we find that our State has provided a sum of Rs. 1,78,00,000 on education out of its total revenue of Rs. 16,18,00,000. So far as the urbanites are concerned, they can well afford to spend on the education of their children. There will hardly be any children from amongst the urbanites who find it difficult to receive education in the schools. My hon. Friends should not be surprised to hear that there are about one lakh and seventy-seven thousand school going children in rural areas while there are as many as 2 lakhs and thirtyfive thousand school going children in urban areas in our State. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that in our State 13% of the total population live in the urban areas while 87% live in rural areas. There are 30% school-going children in urban areas and 70% in rural areas. In spite of all these facts we do not find any adequate arrangements for schools in the villages. It is really a pity that the Government has not made any arrangements for opening schools in the rural areas. When we do not find any primary school in a rural area, we get very much disappointed. The people of the rural areas lay much stress on this point that adequate arrangements should be made for the education of their children.

(At this stage Shri Dev Raj Sethi rose to speak.)

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Now the hon. Member, who happens to be a bachelor will speak for the education of children.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I will speak for your 14 children. *(Laughter).*

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have 4 P.M. studied the budgetary figures regarding education. In this connection I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Members in general and the hon. Minister for Education in particular to a few points. My hon. Friends know it full well that there were as many as 29 districts in the United Punjab. In our State of Punjab we have only 13 districts. If we take the case of the officers at top of the Education Department into consideration, we will find that besides the D.P.I. we have two Deputy Directors. We also find one Registrar of Departmental Examinations. Similarly on the Inspectorate side we find some posts of Divisional Inspectors. In my opinion except the Director of Public Instruction who can manage the educational institutions in our State comprising 13 districts only, there seems to be no necessity to make provision for two Deputy Directors. Similarly we do not find any necessity to have Registrar of Departmental Examinations and if this post is abolished, this work can safely be entrusted to the remaining 2 or 3 Registrars.

Then, Sir, a provision of Rs. 19,960 has been made in the Budget (page 269) for 1950-51 for granting scholarships to European students. Last year, the provision for this item was of the order of Rs. 14,050. This means that it is now proposed to increase it by about Rs. five thousand. I wonder what is the object of the Government in continuing this provision, when the population of Europeans in this province is probably no more than a dozen families.

Another item that has attracted my attention is the disparity between the sums earmarked for Boy Scouts Association and the Hindustan Scouts Association. I wonder why this discrimination is being perpetuated. I can't see the wisdom of having two parallel organizations. It is rather surprising that our Government should show preferential treatment to the Baden-Powell-sponsored association which was during the British regime responsible for many anti-national activities such as honouring the Union Jack and neglecting the national flag and so on. Then there is another item about which I profess to know nothing, viz, the provision for young Farmers' club. I wonder for what purpose this item is being utilized and is proposed to be utilized in future. I don't know what are these clubs for. I wish my friends coming from rural areas could enlighten me on the subject. I would like to know how these clubs have any connection with the Education Department.

Then, Sir, a very paltry sum has been provided for schemes of mass literacy and adult education. If we continue spending this much for the removal of illiteracy, I am afraid Sardar Bachan Singh's view that it will not be possible to do so even in hundred year's time will hold good. Sir, it is really disappointing to see such a small sum being provided for this stupendous task. It appears that the Government is not at all alive to the importance of this issue. The conditions in our country to-day are very analogous to those obtaining in Russia after the Revolution. In spite of so many difficulties, handicaps, such as hostility of foreign powers, financial collapse, political and economic instability, Russia worked a miracle in a span of ten years, by succeeding in making its whole population literate, whereas at the time of the revolution, hardly 10 percent of its population could read and write. Given the determination and the necessary will-power, why can't we succeed, where Russia has succeeded? After all, our circumstances today are not as bad as those of Russia in 1917, when its very independence was in danger due to foreign aggression. When we compare

the snail speed at which we are moving, with the miracle brought about by Russia in 10 years, our heads hang down in shame. We shall have to accelerate our pace, if we have to get to our due place among the progressive nations.

Now, Sir, a few words about the education of women. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. In the whole of the Ambala Division, there is not a single college for women. Even in the whole of the province, there are hardly two or three women colleges for higher education. The Government must increase the number of women colleges, if it wants the cause of female education to advance.

I am in perfect agreement with the views expressed by my hon. Friend Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail regarding the importance of education to the citizens of a democratic country. It is a pity our system of education continues to be the same as under the British rule. In all its essentials, it has still as its basis Macaulay's Despatch on educational policy, which had as its chief aim the imparting of knowledge of English language to the young men of this country with a view to fit them for clerical posts under the Government. Our schools and colleges are even to-day no better than factories for the mass production of clerks. While on the other side of the river Jumna, so many changes have been introduced in the methods of education and the text books, unfortunately in this State education is still continuing along the old grooves. There is no change in the contents of the text books, no effort to give them a national tinge by choosing the lives of national heroes as subjects. We still find the 'Maulvi's ghora, 'Panditji's bahli' and such like topics, in the text-books taught to the children of this province, and nothing new. I feel, Sir, a revolutionary change in our system of education is the crying need of the hour. We need to include inspiring subjects in text-books taught to our children. There is no dearth of intellect and talent in this country. Our people are in no way less intelligent than the inhabitants of other countries. If Hitler could by directing the education of the Germans towards a particular direction and with a particular object in view, mould the character of the whole nation after his own pattern within a period of six years, in spite of financial difficulties, why can't we bring about a metamorphosis in the ideology, outlook, and mental-make-up of our people as desired for and required by the political set-up that we have established by making India a 'sovereign Democratic Republic,' i. e. a people's commonwealth? But we cannot be successful, unless we have that clarity of vision and singleness of purpose which Lenin and Stalin brought to bear upon their mission. It is to be regretted that we are to-day lacking both. Without these, we shall not be able to bring about a mental transformation in our people which they need so very urgently in order to show the right path to the world which is to-day torn asunder by the ideological conflict, and make some contribution to the solution of the problems that face it. The other day I had an exchange of views with the D. P. I. He is also of the view that a radical change in our system of education is urgently called for. The problem of removing illiteracy cannot wait for years, for lack of necessary funds. We must find ways and means of increasing the Government revenues and then make our plans for educating the illiterate people. Our planning should aim at achieving the goal of Universal literacy within a period of ten years. Mere tinkering with the problem will not take us far. We must work with a missionary zeal and in a spirit of idealism to outlaw illiteracy from our state. Our approach should touch the fundamentals of the problem, if we have to succeed.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani* : Sir, this Budget session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is the first session of the Assembly after India became a Republic, I, therefore, think that this day is of great national importance. When I took up a copy of Budget I had imagined that the amount provided for Education this year would at least be double than the previous year but I was sorely disappointed when I did not find it as such. The elections to the Legislative Assembly of every State will in future be on the basis of adult suffrage. The need, therefore, is to educate the vast masses who will be enfranchised. In England when democratic system based on adult franchise was adopted, the Government directed all its efforts to spread education among the masses. I have had a chance to read the Budget speech of the hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and I found that the Government had sanctioned the introduction of free compulsory primary education in municipal areas for five years. According to their scheme 22,000 schools to cover the whole State would be established in the course of ten years. In response to the public demand, however, the Government had to revise their plans and sanction the establishment of 4,400 primary schools per year. They have made a provision of rupees 44,000 in the current financial year and have begun to work in right earnest according to their plans. But I am sorry to say that very little has been done in our State. There are very few primary schools or middle schools in our State and facilities for Education for girls are almost negligible. I have in my possession a pamphlet distributed by the publicity Department from which I would like to quote figures to show what progress has been made in the field of education in our State, and particularly the education for girls. While 2,889 primary schools are being run for boys, there are only 990 schools for girls.

Sardar Shiv Singh: Will the hon. lady Member be prepared to give up the school which is under her control?

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, the middle schools meant for boys are 1,048 but for girls only 81. The high schools for boys are 292 and for girls only 34. Education for adults is essential for democratic system based on adult franchise but in our State there are only 32 schools for men and 20 schools for women. This number includes private and Government controlled institutions. There are 6 training schools for boys and only 5 for girls. There are 33 Science Colleges for boys and only 4 for girls.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang: But girls can read in boys colleges.

Shrimati Sita Devi: To sum up, there are in all 4,412 institutions for boys and only 1,300 for girls. The above mentioned figures will show what Government has done for the education of girls in the State. Moreover, it should be the bounden duty of the Government to give more grants-in-aid to the disrupted colleges, but what I find is that Hans Raj Mahila College of Lahore has not been able to refunction here for want of accommodation though repeated requests have been made to the Government on behalf of the management. On the other hand Bhargava College has been opened in Simla though there was already one College to cater for the needs of the students. I would now like to quote the figures of grants-in-aid sanctioned to private colleges and Government Colleges in other States:—

MADRAS

Grant-in-aid

Government Colleges : 27 lakhs

Private Colleges : 12 lakhs

BOMBAY

Government Colleges: 16 lakhs

Private Colleges : 5½ lakhs

But in our State though there are a few private colleges, the Government gives a paltry sum in the form of grant-in-aid which will be evident from the following figures:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Khalsa College, Amritsar | Rs. 45,000 |
| Hindu Sabha College, Amritsar, | Rs. 12,000 |
| D.M.College, Moga | Rs. 6,000 |

In response to public demand, the Government has now raised the limit to rupees three lakhs. I would make a suggestion that if the Government really means to render substantial financial assistance to the disrupted colleges, it should not allow more than one college to function in a town. These colleges need more financial assistance from the Government, and if such help is not forth coming from the Government it is likely that some of them may collapse. The Gandhi Memorial College, Ambala has not so far received any grant-in-aid from the Government. Now the Britisher has gone for ever and India has been made a Sovereign Democratic Republic. We should not hesitate to assimilate all that was good in the British rule but must bury all its defects deep into the ground. All those conventions that have descended upon us should not necessarily be adhered to. When we see the miserable plight of the teachers who are said to be nation builders, our eyes are filled with tears. They are in receipt of ridiculously low salaries ranging between Rs.40/- to Rs.50/- per-mensem with which it is well nigh impossible for them to make both ends meet. In these circumstances, they have perforce to supplement their income by taking recourse to tuition work with the result that the education of boys in the schools remains neglected. The teachers have been persistently clamouring for the revision of their grades and now in these days of high cost of living their patience has almost been exhausted by austere living. When the attention of the Government is drawn towards raising the salaries of teachers to a reasonable level, it often takes shelter behind the common plea of inadequacy of finance. But I cannot deny the injustice of the system of distribution of funds when I find that appreciable increase in the provision of grant has been made for the Deputy Directors of industries. I can anticipate the reply of the hon. Minister who would say that if economic position of the State appears slightly more hopeful, the Government would accept the demand of teachers. I can assure the hon. Minister that when the report of Resources and Retrenchment Committee comes before the Government and if it implements the recommendations made therein, there will be considerable improvement in the State's finances and the money so available can be usefully spent on Education.

Pandit Jiwan Lal (South-west Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, through you I wish to place my views about education before the House. The first thing in this connection is the fact that the teachers employed in the various schools at present are not getting enough to make their both ends meet. The Government should consider this matter very sympathetically. Secondly I wish to point out that the teachers who have to play the role of Gurus should before their appointment be given proper training as without that they cannot and do not serve any useful purpose. On going round the villages many times I find that if actually only 30 students attend a school the teachers show forty-five on their rolls. They have a bad

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habit of misrepresenting things. If the tell lies for trivial things what can the nation expect from them. We should take regular measures to train them on the right lines and for this purpose I suggest that training centres should be set up at the headquarters of the different Districts where they should be instructed always to speak the truth and keep tidy and clean. When our teachers are good and have attained a high standard of morality, they will set good examples for our children and they will try to emulate them.

Sir, in my opinion we should give more care to our female education. I have seen that if in a village there are four girls in a school there might be one unimpressive teacher who does not know her job. She usually takes no pains to persuade the village women to send their daughters to school and this cannot be called a satisfactory state of affairs. In District Gurgaon there are about forty or fifty girl schools and about 20 or 25 untrained teachers are working in them. Steps should immediately be taken to train them so that they are enabled to impart right kind of education including industrial education to our girls. These teachers should be required to keep a high standard of efficiency and morality that is required of a Guru. A Guru should always be honest and capable of setting high standards of life for his or her pupils. It is true that the moral side of life was ignored by English men while selecting teachers for our Education Department. They select only such persons as fitted well in their imperial machinery. But those days are gone. In the changed conditions we stand in need of teachers who have a genuine love for the country and its children. Now we should take particular care to see that our teachers explain and impress upon our children the importance of Brahmacharya. In the old order there was of course no place for Bhramcharya in schools and colleges but that should no longer be tolerated in the country.

I have also to say a few words about technical and professional education. Sometimes I am grieved to find some youngmen educated upto the Middle Standard going about unemployed. They go from door to door in search of service but cannot get it. I suggest that Government should establish some industrial schools where our young folk may be able to get some professional training. After such training they will not have any need of begging for service and shall at any rate be able to set up cycle or motor repairing shops etc. Sir, I do not mean to take any more time of the House and shall in the end emphasise the importance of religious and moral education for the teachers and the taught. When the parents and the teachers have given the right type of education to the children, all corruption in the Government departments and the public life will stand liquidated.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am surprised to find that provision in the Budget for the education of children is not larger than that of the last year. It would have been better if more schools were established for groups of villages which at present have only one school. On studying the Budget I find that in addition to three Directors provision has been made for 145 Inspectors. I am quite familiar with the work these Inspectors do and am in a position to say that in place of giving any guidance and advice to the teachers they render them positive disservice by exacting 'begar' from them. I personally know that the village teachers have got to go every morning to the residences of the Inspectors either to flatter them or to do some domestic work and are therefore invariably late in the school. There is hardly a village teacher who can go to the school punctually at 10 o' clock.

If they are asked not to do so, they say that their salaries are very low and they can increase their income in that manner only. I can say without fear of contradiction that in the villages the teachers do not reach their schools before 11 A.M. in winter and 8 A.M. in summer. I have asked the Inspectors of Schools several times to accompany me so that I could show them this state of affairs but they did not agree to do so because they were in the habit of taking forced labour from these teachers. They visit the schools only once in a year and on that occasion too they only enjoy the tea and dinner parties arranged in their honour by the village teachers. A teacher who flatters them gets good remarks while others get unfavourable remarks. It is not proper to spend a huge sum of money on Inspectors. There is no necessity of such a large number of them. Then, Sir, I wish to point out that the Government does not pay proper attention to the necessity of providing sufficient educational facilities in the villages. It is said that a larger number of boys are reading in schools now.

An. hon. Member: The Minister-in-charge also belongs to a village.

Master Gurbanta Singh: It has been remarked, Sir, that the Minister belongs to a village. As soon as one becomes Minister, he comes to live in a city. Eighty percent of those Members who were elected by the rural people have settled in cities and towns. They have not the courage to visit the villages and face their electorate.

Not only has the Government failed to make large provision for vernacular and rural education, it has also reduced the amount spent on scholarships. The amount of money which used to be given to our children out of the Peasant Welfare Fund has also been reduced. Those hon. Members who live in cities are quite up-to-date while country-folk like Chaudhri Badlu Ram, Chaudhri Matu Ram and myself are simple people. When my hon. Friends like Master Kabul Singh shift to the cities and become members of Municipal Committees, they do not care to visit their villages to see the condition of the people living there.

Then, Sir, I wish to point out that the number of primary and high schools in the villages is very small. All the new schools and colleges have been opened in the cities and nobody looks to the need of the rural people. A sum of twenty three lakhs of rupees has been provided for being given in the form of scholarships to the children of backward classes. Such schemes exist only on paper. When we go to get our children admitted to a school, we are told that the number of students on its rolls is already very large and that there is no more accommodation. If, somehow, one succeeds in getting his child admitted, he is turned out of the school after three months on the ground that he got plucked in the examination. No fee concession has been given to at least seventy percent of Harijan children. The circulars issued by the Government for the remission of tuition fees of these children do not reach the village or District Board Schools. In the primary schools these fees are not remitted at all. As regards those children, who are studying in the fifth or high classes, the tuition fees of seventy per cent of them are not remitted. The Head-masters say that they send the necessary papers to the Government but no action is taken on these. I asked the Director of Public Instruction to place these funds at the disposal of Inspectors so that they might sanction the grant of scholarships. Great difficulty is experienced in the matter of getting our children admitted to schools. The private schools do not pay the least attention to this matter. To me it appears that the

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Government has no control on these schools. When the Government has issued an order that no tuition fees should be charged from Harijan children, the grant-in-aid of those schools which do not observe this order should be stopped. Nobody would accept such a suggestion because the managing bodies of these schools have influence with one big officer or another. When I, enquired from the Principal of Jullundur College, why he did not remit the fees of Harijan boys in his college, he replied that there were eight hundred students on the rolls of his college. According to the Government instructions, before a college could ask for aid in respect of Harijan students on its rolls, it had to remit the tuition fees of five percent students itself. The Government gave aid in respect of the Harijans in excess of those five percent. In the case of his college he would have to remit the tuition fees of forty students, which he was not prepared to do. I would request the Government to take action against those colleges which did not provide free education to Harijan boys as ordered by it.

I also wish to point out that the Secretariat of the Education Department works at a very slow speed. The papers sent to it for the grant of scholarships keep lying there for months and in some cases for even a year. I ask the Government to see that the orders issued by it are properly carried out. When I go to my village and tell people that the Government has made the education of Harijan children free, I am told that the schools are charging full fees from them. In Jullundur Cantonment, I told the Headmasters of the Victor High School and Cantonment High School that the Government had ordered that no fees were to be charged from Harijan students, but they refused to pay any heed to it. I took the Inspector to those schools and he told the Headmasters that if they had no funds, they could meet the expenditure out of Sports Fund, which he promised to approve, but they turned down his advice. Why does the Government not take action against such schools? It merely issued communiques that so many of Harijan students were being given free education and so many of them were in receipt of scholarships.

Another difficulty which we experience is with regard to the teaching of Hindi or Punjabi in the schools. If a person desires his son to be educated in Punjabi, he is sometimes told that the school has arrangements for teaching Hindi only. In some schools, there is arrangement for teaching of Punjabi but not for Hindi. I have brought various complaints to the notice of the Inspector of Schools but no action has been taken.

Then, Sir, there is no arrangement for female education in my constituency. The arrangements in the whole of Jullundur Division are inadequate.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr Deputy Speaker.)

Chaudhri Matu Ram (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rura Reserved seat) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to place my views before the House. My hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh has already said a lot about the backward Sikh classes. But I want to say a few words in respect of Harijans, so far as education in our State is concerned. After the attainment of independence, our Government decided to give the right of equality to Harijans. The most important pre-

requisite for this purpose is education. But I would like to point out that the amount earmarked for Education is very inadequate. Secondly the manner in which Harijans are sought to be educated is such that would keep them illiterate as at present. What should have been done is that the Harijan students should have been exempted from the payment of fees right from the fifth class. Not only that, they should have been given scholarships even. But actually, they are exempted from the payment of fees only from the ninth class and they have to pay fees upto the eighth class. The Harijan in our State today is in such a difficult position that he cannot pay fees for his children from 5th to 8th class. Before the partition, he was not much worried for his livelihood. The zamindar did not look upon him with hostile eyes ; but now he has assumed the shape of a wolf for the poor Harijan of this State.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Is the hon. Member speaking to the point ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I will ask the hon. Member to speak on the Demand of Education.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Sir, I am speaking on the Demand of Education. The hon. Member has made a wrong statement. I was saying that the financial condition of the Harijans in the Punjab today is such that they cannot afford to send their children to schools. They are not getting their share of crops *Seer* from the village zamindars, nor are they allowed to act as tenants. If our Government really wants to educate our children, it should not only exempt them from the payment of fees from the fifth class but should also give them scholarships. I would say that they should be given even free food and clothing. But if our Government wants the Harijans to climb a building which has no stairs, surely they cannot do so. The method being followed by our Government to educate our children is so difficult that the Harijans will remain illiterate. As regards the private schools, they do not want to put themselves in difficulty by admitting Harijan students when they are not getting any grant for this purpose from the Government. It appears that the Education Department is hostile towards the Harijans. I know of many cases of Harijan students who have not received their scholarships for seven or eight months. In the end I would like to point out that if the Government really wants to raise the Harijans to the level of equality with others, it should adopt honest methods for this purpose.

Master Gurbanta Singa : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Matu Ram said in the beginning of his speech that I had spoken for the Sikh backward classes. But I may submit that I used the words 'backward classes' and not 'Sikh backward classes.' My hon. Friend misunderstood me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*):

5 P.M. The population of this State of ours is $1\frac{1}{4}$ crores and our Government has set aside an amount of $1\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees for the education of our children. If this amount is equally distributed among the people, it comes to rupee one and odd per head. This amount, I would say, is so meagre and the task so stupendous that even for centuries we shall not be able to educate our people. All the same, I would like to place some suggestions before the Government for getting the maximum benefit out of this small amount.

There is one thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government, that is, free and compulsory education. I think more emphasis should

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be laid on this. A sum of rupees eighty eight lakhs only has been sanctioned for this purpose as grants to local bodies etc. In my opinion, not less than two, thirds of the entire expenditure on education should be earmarked for primary education alone. Of course, University, College and research education are necessary in their own way. But they are not as important to the people at large as the question of making all the people of Panjab literate at this stage of our State's development. I cannot say whether the Government fully realizes the duty of making the people of the villages literate. But so far as the villagers themselves are concerned, I have noticed that they are too keen to get themselves and their children educated. If our Government takes courage and plans with care and foresight I am sure the people themselves will get ready to bear half the expenses on their education. There are persons who are starting schools in the villages by their own efforts. They work in a spirit of service. But on the other hand our Government is so inefficient that it cannot take full advantage of this spirit of the people. The people are so keen in getting education that some of them are willing to bear the whole expenses even in some districts of Haryana. I know people are opening schools of their own accord and erecting school buildings. I have seen people giving funds liberally for the purpose of starting new schools, etc. But may I ask what our Ministers are for? I am unable to understand their attitude towards such an important matter as education. Their duty is to create interest for education among the masses. But I regret to note that far from doing so, they are not even making efforts to satisfy the desire of the people for education. The people are keen to get their children educated but the authorities are not providing necessary facilities in this matter. Various schemes of training, school buildings etc. have been considered from time to time and schemes of Basic Education have been formulated. A training school has been started in Jullundur district which is to turn out sixty teachers annually. In my opinion, such plans and minor efforts cannot meet the real needs. They may be good as samples. But so far as the question of mass literacy is concerned, it cannot be achieved by such minor measures. If we go on with that speed it may take centuries to make the people literate. Schemes of training the teachers and planning school buildings etc. may be good in their own way as ideals, but the real problems cannot be solved by such meagre half-hearted measures. The first thing our Government should note is that ours is a country where education used to be received and given under trees and in jungles in those olden days which are famous for learning and wisdom. I would like to see the same spirit pervading again. In the villages there is a sufficient number of educated youngmen who can be of help to the authorities in the schemes of making people literate. Much progress can be made if they are utilized.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : But the hon. Minister is not paying any attention to what you suggest.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : He is paying attention but I cannot say whether any result will come out of it.

Minister for Education : Result will surely come out of it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I was saying that the spirit of the good old days should be followed. I am sure that if we follow those methods we might be able to achieve our objectives of spreading education in the State.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Does the hon. Member suggest that we should follow the same old methods ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I don't mean that the methods which have become out-of-date should be followed in letter but my contention is that their spirit should be grasped and put into practice. If we can catch the spirit of simplicity we might achieve our object of spreading education to every nook and corner of our villages.

Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is University Education. Government has given a grant of about 25 lakhs of rupees. When we spend so much we are entitled to look into the state of affairs of the University. I have noted with regret that an evil practice has somehow come into vogue. I don't know how it happened but complaints are heard that some University degrees have been bought and sold. There might be some persons at Solon and elsewhere who indulge in such an undesirable practice. It is a very serious affair that University degrees can be bought and sold. We should inquire into it and put an end to this objectionable practice.

Another thing connected with University affairs is that recently in the matter of promotions of Professors in some colleges, there has been some favouritism. This is quite a new thing in this Department. It has created a lot of heart-burning among the Professors. So far Education Department has been immune from such evils. I can say that, as a matter of fact, this was the only department of our Government which was free from such bad influences. But it is unfortunate that those who indulge in flattery, etc. can get promotions and intelligent persons have to suffer. There should be at least one Government department where merit alone should count. In this connection, I have asked some questions also but the answers have been evasive. It has come to my knowledge that about seven Professors have received promotions and six have been superseded. The history of this affair is that the persons promoted have connections with influential persons. The number of such irregularities is increasing recently. In Education Department, there should be no such things.

As regards Hindi and Punjabi, the Government has arrived at a decision and it is being put into practice. The University authorities considered that Hindi and Punjabi both should be made compulsory in the tenth class. The Government want it from the 4th class. I say from 4th upto 10th a child should be required to have some knowledge of the other language. For a child of immature age it would not be possible to learn the literatures of both the languages continuously in six classes. It will be hard for the child. He can, at the most, be expected to learn one language efficiently and have a working knowledge of the other in a year from 4th to 10th. In Jullundur Division, Punjabi should be taught as a compulsory subject and Hindi as an additional subject and in Ambala Division *vice versa*. This arrangement will be useful for all but it would be wrong to insist on teaching the other language for six years.

Another very important matter towards which the hon. Members' attention should be drawn is the demand of the classical and vernacular teachers. The teachers teaching Punjabi, Hindi, Sanskrit, etc. wish to be treated at par with the English teachers. Now when we are independent we should look upon these languages as worthy of the same respect if not more which we give to the English language. It is a matter of regret that still the

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salaries, grades and increments of the classical and vernacular teachers are much less as compared with the salaries etc. of English teachers. In the years 1937, 1942 and 1946, grades of teachers were revised. But unfortunately, the difference in grade and in start of both types of teachers became more in 1946 than it was in previous years. This state of affairs is quite undesirable and if the Government does not take steps in the matter, the discontent will increase. These are some of the important matters which I submit for the consideration of our own National Government.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with my speech, I would like to offer congratulations to the hon. Minister for Education on having opened a Government College at Hissar. Though this is one of the biggest districts, yet it is very backward in the matter of higher education. Government has done well in meeting the dire need of the people in this respect. Besides, this is a district which has surpassed all other districts in the matter of military services.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The district of Rohtak also ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes, it has rendered military services even greater than the district of Rohtak. Well, Sir, whereas I have offered felicitations to the hon. Minister for taking a step in the right direction by establishing a Degree College at Hissar, I would now draw his attention to certain important and unpalatable matters which deserve an immediate and careful consideration at his hands. It is a well-known fact, Sir, that no country can make any rapid progress unless adequate arrangements exist there for compulsory primary education. Illiteracy is the very bane of advancement of a nation. I am, therefore, of the opinion that until illiteracy is liquidated, our State cannot make any headway. But the first step towards the attainment of this goal is the introduction of primary education. Now we have to see what has been done by the Ministry of Education in this matter? We find that the Education Department is most indifferent and careless in this respect. It goes without saying that the number of primary schools in the State of Punjab falls far short of the needs of the people, particularly the rural people. Now the question is whether Government have any intention to open more primary schools or not. If we ask them to take effective and speedy measures for the spread of primary education, ready comes the reply from the Government that the needful cannot be done for want of funds. But this is a pretext under which they usually take shelter to avoid embarrassment. Now, Sir, if you just peruse the budget and scrutinise it carefully, you will see that a substantial saving can be effected and the amount thus saved can safely be utilised for opening primary schools. In this connection, I may point out that when at every district headquarters there are no less than five or more high schools run by private effort, there appears to be no necessity that Government should also set up a high school there. This is a sheer waste of money of the tax-payer. I am of the view that all high schools running under the aegis of the Government should be closed and the large amount of money thus saved should be made use of by establishing a network of primary schools in the rural areas where the people are steeped in illiteracy. If you just consider the number of high schools at Rohtak, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, etc., the existence of Government high schools in the face of so many high schools indicates that Government are not utilising the public funds judiciously. I may point out that primary education is the crying need of the hour and the Government high schools

cannot take us very long to liquidate the illiteracy of the masses, which the primary schools can do to a great extent. It is a thousand pities that the Minister of Education, who fortunately happens to be a ruralite, is maintaining an indifferent attitude on a subject of vital importance like the opening of large number of primary schools. During the past regimes, when Dr. Narang or Dr. Manohar Lal used to be at the helm of affairs of the Ministry of Education, we used to accuse them for showing little interest in the spread of primary education in the rural areas because they were urbanites. But now with what face can we hurl that accusation at the door of the present hon. Minister for Education? I would, therefore, request him to see that vigorous efforts are made by the Education Department for opening primary schools in the rural areas. If my suggestion is accepted, it would go a long way to remove the difficulty of lack of funds. Now I put forward another suggestion which, if accepted, would prove another source of money required for propagating primary education. Mr. Speaker, you are perhaps aware that almost at every district headquarters, a number of colleges exist and these high educational institutions are ordinarily run by different trusts or recognised bodies. These colleges are more often than not Arts Colleges. May I ask what justification is there for the Government to establish another Arts college at the expense of the tax-payer? I do not object to their establishing some vocational or training institution. But to add one more Arts college, where already a number of such institutions exist, tantamounts to waste of money. Take, for instance, the case of Ludhiana, Rohtak etc. Government colleges exist side by side with the private colleges. As a matter of fact, the Government college or school people are very shrewd. Whenever a Minister visits their institutions, they profusely garland him and the hon. Minister is highly pleased with them. (*Laughter*) But what do we find here? My hon. Friends, the Minister of Education and the Chief Minister indulge in tall talk of bringing about a reorientation in the educational policy of the Government. I wonder if they would act upto their professions because I feel they only say ditto to what the heads of departments advise them.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflection please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : If that is the view of the hon. Speaker, I withdraw my words. Well, Sir, what I want to drive at is that enormous amounts of money can be saved by closure of Government high schools at various district headquarters and also of some Government colleges which appear to be redundant in the face of other equally good private arts colleges at some places in the State and that money could be utilised in opening primary schools so that people at large may be benefited. I see the able Finance Secretary occupying a chair in the official gallery. I welcome his presence and since he is regarded to be a hard task master in financial matters, I hope, he too, will give a careful consideration to my suggestions. Then, Sir, I may point out that the rural people are in a miserable plight. Their illiteracy knows no bounds. Sometimes there is none in the whole village, who could read out their letters to them. I would again request the Government to get rid of the white elephants in the form of Government high schools and establish primary schools out of the savings thus effected otherwise I would be compelled to say that the Government have no initiative or drive in them. They simply act upon what they are advised to do by the heads of the departments. If the Government ignore my suggestions, they will have to face the consequences at the time of general elections which are not far off. The people will certainly charge them with indifference in this matter and

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may take their revenge. It is a pity that while Government makes no arrangements for imparting education to the people, it expects them to be enlightened soldiers, enlightened farmers and enlightened citizens. How could it be possible to have such high expectations from illiterate people, whom we cannot give even primary education? I hope the hon. Minister would appreciate my views and will not make a speech to counteract them. I would reiterate that primary education must be given precedence over the higher education if we want to root out illiteracy and bring about enlightenment in the people of Punjab who mainly reside in these villages.

There is yet another point to which I would like to invite the attention of the Government. It should not fight shy of levying any taxes. The weakness of the hon. Ministers in general and the hon. Chief Minister in particular is evident from the fact that they do not dare levy any tax on the people. We do not care for the taxes. We are prepared to pay taxes. But what we want is this that more and more schools should be opened in the rural areas and that there should be adequate number of schools for girls too. The people of the rural areas have been paying land revenue, abiana and the local rates. I would like to suggest to the Government to levy a cess on the people for this purpose. They should also levy taxes on all persons having an income of Rs. 100/- or more, and the tax thus realized should be spent on imparting education to the masses. Government should not make any excuse that by taking such steps, they would be incurring the displeasure of the people and that the papers like "The Partap" and "Bandematram" would oppose this move on the part of the Government. In my opinion, our Government would not be justified in making such excuses.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I do not want to take much time. I have to say a few things only. Some of my hon. Friends have in the course of their speeches pointed out that more and more money has been provided in the Budget for police and other departments than for the education of masses of our State. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends holding this view that if they make all-out efforts to stop violation of laws and also instigating people to resort to strikes and other unlawful activities, then I am sure we will be able to effect some saving in other departments and spend it on giving more and more education to the masses. If this is done, I am sure, my hon. Friends would get satisfied and they would not thus get any opportunity to raise any objections. It has been said that special attention should be paid towards imparting education and particularly primary education, to the people in the rural areas. So far as I am concerned, I am also one with them in making this demand to the Government that there should be maximum number of primary schools in the rural areas. If we study the figures in the Budget, we will find that a sum of Rs. 88,00,000 has been provided for the education of the rural areas. There is no doubt about it that the amount is not too much and that more money should have been provided in the Budget. But we have to see whether any saving can be effected to make provision for more money in this direction. We can do so by retrenching some of the staff in the department and if it is not possible then we will have to examine whether the amount already provided in the Budget is spent in the right direction. So far as the high schools are concerned, there are about 38 Government high schools and 99 aided schools. A sum

of Rs. 32,65,000 is spent on Government schools and Rs. 6,12,800 on aided schools. As regards the number of students in both the schools, there are about 2,53,79 and 81016 students in all the Government high schools and the aided schools respectively. In aided schools expenditure per student comes to Rs. 7/- and in Government schools it comes to as much as Rs. 128/- If we compare the examination result percentage, extra-mural activities and other activities of the aided schools with the Government schools we will find that the latter on whom huge amounts are being spent have a very low percentage and they stand nowhere. This is how money is being spent on the primary and secondary schools. Grant-in-aid is given to schools upto a maximum limit of 75%. However, there are very few schools which receive the maximum limit of grant-in-aid. The result of all this has been that the denominational schools find it very difficult and hard to pull on. On the other hand comparatively larger amounts are being spent on the Government schools. If we compare the education imparted to boys in Government and private schools, we will find better education is being imparted in the latter than in the former. In fact it is an open secret and there can be no two opinions on this matter that in private schools better education is imparted to boys than in the Government schools. Under the circumstances private schools should be provided with more grants than are at present allowed to them. Perhaps my hon. Friends will raise this objection that education is being imparted in private schools on communal lines. But I assure them that real and better type of education is imparted to boys in private schools than in the Government schools. I hope my hon. Friends will not have any objection to more and more grants being made available to private schools. In all the countries adequate provisions for grants are made for private schools.

Now about the Inspectors of Schools. I am really constrained to remark that the inspectors pay visits to the schools in their jurisdiction only once a year. They do not know anything about the teachers and the taught. The only thing that they do at the time of inspection of schools is that they make certain entries in the log book and affix their signatures and it has been experienced that the remarks they make are usually wrong. They do not know anything about the head masters. They only write down good or satisfactory remarks about the teachers without caring to know anything about their work. It has also been experienced that sometimes they write good remarks about those teachers who would not dream of such remarks and bad remarks about very efficient and experienced teachers. Now under the changed conditions, it is but meet and proper on the part of the Inspectors to pay their attention towards those points which go to make or mar a school or in other words the future of the boys of that school. They should make it a point to see as to how the educational affairs can be improved under the changed conditions. Further I would like to point out that the hon. Minister for Education and the Director of Public Instruction have on many occasions expressed their view that the pressing need of the hour is to set the educational affairs right and to bring about a revolution in the system of education and the subjects taught to the students under the changed conditions when India has already constituted itself into an Independent Sovereign Republic. It is really a matter of gratification to note that efforts are being made to change the curriculum with a view to developing the common sense of the boys and also inculcate in them a spirit of love for their motherland. My hon. Friend will be pleased to know that text-books would be changed within this year and thus a revolution would be brought about in the system of education in our State. When this is done, we shall be thankful to the hon. Minister-in-charge for his having taken so much pains and interest in this matter.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, so far as the problem of education is concerned, I must frankly say that on the existing programme and with the existing financial resources of the State we will not be able to satisfy the aspirations of the people, aspirations which they rightly cherish and possess after the declaration of Sovereign Indian Republic. Our finances are tight and so far as I can foresee, the financial position is not likely to improve to such a great extent as to enable any Government to embark upon an educational programme involving extensive expenditure. This is also clear that if the existing grooves of educational policy are followed it may not be possible to satisfy the legitimate desires of the millions of people for education which is of national importance for the successful working of democracy. It is, therefore, very essential that some sort of revolutionary attitude will have to be adopted either with regard to the financial order or with regard to education and perhaps with regard to both.

So far as financial resources are concerned, they will be a constant source of bickering either between the villages and cities or between this form of education and that form of education. And when the thing which is to be distributed is little as compared with the needs of large number of people criticisms are bound to follow. I have every sympathy with the education department which is distributing small resources among thirsty people whose number is considerably large. Therefore, Sir, so far as the financial resources are concerned we should straightaway take a bold step and decide to find either fresh sources of income or make an effort to change our way of approach with regard to education. With regard to the fresh sources of income, I am extremely doubtful and therefore that angle of approach to tackle the problem of education is to be changed. In my mind, about it, I am quite clear. We should boldly take a decision and should not mind if the education becomes a little more expensive. In the present financial conditions of an average individual, whether an artisan, peasant or a petty clerk, I am pretty certain a small increase in the fees will not be grudged. If in the primary classes fees are increased from four annas to six annas it will not matter much.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang: Primary education is free.

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is one of the reasons why there is no extension in the scope of primary education. We should frankly say that primary education which is at the moment free and very limited should be extended even though we may have to pay for it. We should abandon the idea of free primary education. Paying a few annas will not be grudged by the people if their children are given education. I am voicing the feelings of millions of people when I say that and I am pretty certain that they will not grudge payment of small fees. We are making a very poor estimate of the present desire of the people to educate their children and I am certain that they will not mind paying fees for 5 years the scale of which is very modest. Sir, this appears to me the only solution. It has been said that primary education is the concern of the district boards but I say it is the concern of the district boards, the Government and everybody. Unless this duty is performed by them successfully we should not rest content. We should compel them to start new schools even though people have got to pay for it. So far as the working of the schools which are privately-managed is concerned; whether these are middle schools or high schools or even colleges, experience has shown that barring a few institutions almost all of them are self-supporting. When with a little organization they have been able to produce institutions which are quite up to the mark so far as teaching is concerned, I fail to understand why the Government institutions are a source of burden to the State. I would urge, Sir, that our prejudices against these privately-managed

institutions should disappear and the Government should also try to bring their institutions on the same model as those institutions so that the resources are taxed and put to a strain to the very minimum. Sir, it will be admitted on all hands that the Punjabi character is essentially sound. A Punjabi with a little of education can prove the best soldier. He can also prove the best artisan and experience has shown that even if he obtains comparatively few number of marks in the examinations when he embarks on the voyage of life, he proves himself to be better component of the society whether he enters his private business or whether he enters Government Service. It is, therefore, of prime importance that the new Punjab, the disrupted Punjab, the suffering and bleeding Punjab in order to work out its future destiny should get as much help from the State as possible so that the real essence of the Punjabi character is brought out by education, a different character from the one in which we are falling today. Before finishing my speech-and I will finish within time-I would like to impress upon the Government that so far as the educational side is concerned, it requires a radical overhauling. Greater attention need be given to adult education which I understand is now being undertaken by the Government. Provision for that is very meagre and I would not grudge a scheme by which people who avail of this system of education are even made to pay. The State should also by its organizational efforts give the right type of education and if that be so, I am sure that people will not grudge to pay to make that effort a success. Some sort of education cess might probably be resented as I have serious doubts about its reception amongst the general public but if the expenditure upon those beneficiaries is distributed then I am pretty certain that there will be very little scope for criticism from any quarter. If this problem is tackled from this angle, I am almost sure that the scheme as also the finances can be correlated in such a manner that some sort of workable solution can be evolved. (Cheers)

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, there cannot be much criticism so far as the expenditure proposed to be incurred in connection with the Education Department is concerned, as there cannot be much difference of opinion about its propriety. Shri Dev Raj Sethi has made a suggestion for reducing expenditure on the Headquarter Establishment. If this can be done, consistently with efficiency, no one can have any objection to it. Unnecessary expenditure must be cut down. Sir, it is a pity that such an important department should have been entrusted to the care of a Minister who is already overburdened with the work of other big departments. As a matter of fact to whomsoever this department is entrusted, it should be the main part of his portfolio and if any other work is to be given to him, it must relate to a minor department. Ever since the partition the Minister incharge of Education has remained saddled with other heavy responsibilities connected with other important departments and has not been able to devote more attention to this nation-building department as he ought to have done. A great injustice has thus been done to this department in the past. I would, therefore, urge that there should be a separate Minister for it, since it is this department which is to prepare the coming generation for shouldering the heavy responsibilities of running the administration and managing the other affairs of the country. Any negligence in connection with the education of our children would be unpardonable.

In my opinion, Sir, adequate attention has not been paid either by the Government or by the parents towards the education of the children of this country. So far, we have been giving them a designless and an aimless

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education. Our policy and system of education have been haphazard in the extreme although in every other sphere of our life we keep some object in view. Sir, there are at present two problems before us which the Education Department should tackle. The first is the economic problem which requires devising such measures as to maximise production in the State. The political independence that we have achieved after great sacrifices would be of no real significance unless it is accompanied by economic independence. If we want to lead a happy life, we should accept the gospel of hard work and try to produce more. The education should be such as to enable the young men to make a real contribution towards increasing the production in the State. It is often observed that young men after receiving education for 10 or 15 years become useless for this education saps their vitality and renders them unfit for useful work. These persons have in most cases a fastidious sense of prestige and are not willing to accept a job which involves manual labour. They can, therefore, neither take to agricultural work nor can they usefully adapt themselves to any work of art. They have practically no capacity for any work demanding skill and labour. At present such graduates are seen hankering after petty jobs carrying initial salary of Rs.50/- or Rs.60/- per mensem. Thousands of applications are received if a post falls vacant in any Government office. On the other hand, a carpenter can easily earn rupees five per day by his manual labour. Such a faulty system of education needs change so as to make it consistent with the requirements of the country. It should inspire in young men a sense of dignity of labour which is of paramount importance in the development of national life. Apart from this, we find that after the achievement of independence the average level of purity, morality and integrity has gone down with the result that the evils of corruption, bribery and inefficiency in the administration have appeared as companions of our freedom. The political unrest which we witness in the State is also the outcome of present education. The present education does not aim at building the character of children. This system will have to be remodelled and if it is allowed to continue it will complicate the problem of unemployment in the modern times. Such education cannot instil a sense of plain living in young men, who will surrender themselves to corrupt practices in order to keep up their high standard of living. Now-a-days there is much talk about Sachar formula in the State and effort is being made to introduce it in Haryana Prant. I think it will be injustice to the children if they are asked to learn English, Punjabi and a classical language in addition to their national language. How can we expect a child to learn four languages and also study science and other useful subjects. The student is already over-burdened and his burden should not be increased by imposing compulsion of studying another language in addition to his mother tongue which also happens to be our national language.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, when I took up the Budget, I was under the impression that the Government would have framed its policy in educational matters in accordance with the new constitution, but I was sorely disappointed to see it otherwise. Our leaders have been very vocal in laying stress on the point that no child up to the age of 14 years will remain illiterate after ten years in the State as the Government was going to embark upon the scheme of free compulsory primary education. It was reasonable to expect that during the first year there should have been some evidence of the enforcement of such a programme so that the public might have strong reasons to believe that the Government wants to implement this scheme in all seriousness. But I am sorry to say that I fail to find any provision in the budget for fulfilling

the assurance given to the people to liquidate illiteracy within the period of ten years. Secondly, the spread of education among backward classes is necessary under the directive Article 46 of the new Constitution which lays down:-

The State shall promote with special care educational and economic interests of the weaker section of the people and in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

In view of this directive article in the Constitution, the Government should have made a provision in the Budget for affording necessary educational facilities to the backward classes. The Government should indeed make intensive campaign of education in such villages where there is no school within a radius of twenty-five miles. There are many such villages in my district and officers of Education Department would not like to go there on account of lack of facilities for travel. From the list of schools that we have received from the Education Department, it appears that unaided schools are mostly in towns. It makes no difference whether these schools are given grant-in-aid by the Government or not as these schools can easily run independently with the help of private donations given by the people who are financially well off. But in rural areas, the Government should place large funds at the disposal of such schools. In response to public demand, the Government have sanctioned a paltry sum in the form of grant-in-aid to the twelve schools in Kangra district. But I would say that the amount sanctioned is not sufficient to enable these schools to function satisfactorily. Their claim for more financial assistance is justified on the ground that the people of this ilaqa can ill-afford to render any financial help to these schools. The Government should, therefore, make a provision of adequate funds so that they may not collapse. I would like to inform the Government that through public efforts a High School was opened in Shahpur but subsequently the Education Department did not accord permission to the opening of high classes in this school. I fail to understand this queer logic that the department should have any objection to the opening of this school especially when the Government has not to undertake any liability of giving financial assistance.

Sir, the last thing that I wish to point out through you to the hon. Minister is that no steps have so far been taken by the Government to rehabilitate useful educational institutions, namely, the Khalsa National College, the Sanatam Dharam College etc., which were doing very useful work in the United Punjab and no funds are provided in the Budget for this purpose. This is obviously not good and the Government should render immediate help to these institutions so that they are enabled to serve our new State.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat (Loharu Dujana and Pataudi States) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I represent the three States of Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi. The people of these places are quite illiterate and they were kept so by the Nawabs who deprecated the very idea of educating their subjects. But the pity is that the state of affairs is worse in the changed circumstances. I find that a High School has been reduced to a Middle and a Middle School to a Primary. In some schools there are 300 boys and there is only one teacher. I am grieved to say that officers of the Education Department are not doing justice to the work in my constituency. May be it is due to want of control on the part of Government. Funds which are placed at their disposal for educational purposes are not properly utilized. The same is the case with the District Boards which are nothing short of a fraud. Last time all the money that was given to District Boards was spent only on one school and not a penny was used for the good of the rural areas. I request that we ruralites may at any rate be treated as younger brothers and given

[Shri Buja Ram Bhagat]

help so that we are also enabled to serve the nation. This reminds me of the teachings of the Father of the Nation-Mahatma Gandhi who laid such a great emphasis on the education of the rural population which according to him formed the backbone of the country. But more than two and a half years have passed that the followers of the great Mahatma are in power and have done precious little for us.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division Landholders): Sir, other hon. Members of the House have said quite a lot in regard to the school education but I wish to speak on the expenditure that is to be incurred on the University. Greater attention of the Government is needed towards one or two aspects in this direction. The first thing I want to bring to the notice of the Government is the Post Graduate Research Schools. I find that no provision has been made for it in the Budget although it is the most important thing to which a University should pay attention. It is there in these Post Graduate Research Schools that you train your future administrators, educationists and people who raise the status of the country. Sir, I feel that money must be found out for such institutions even though we may have to postpone or even stop our schemes in other branches of education. A start must be made.

Another thing that I have noted in the University budget is that the University has received a very small grant for its library, a sum of Rs. 5,000/- only. The fact that a well equipped library is very essential for the mental growth of the students cannot be disputed. The library that we have left behind was one of the best in the country. Of course we cannot reach that standard at once but steps must be taken at once so that we may have a much better library as early as possible. I wanted to say something more on other points but as the time at my disposal is very limited I will switch on to another point which I consider of greater importance and leave out the others.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to the importance of social education. This sort of education would be beneficial to a large section of the population. I think people's representatives will benefit by it more and I suggest let them be benefited by it. In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the resolution moved in the Parliament by Professor K. T. Shah. Professor Shah wanted that some educational standard should be laid down for Members of the Parliament and the Members of the legislatures of the States. Of course after a great discussion it was postponed but the importance of this move cannot be overlooked. I would say after seeing the type of work we are doing here that extension of social education should be a necessity and it would be in the interest of the people's representatives in the States because there is very little understanding of basic problems they are faced with. The problems are approached from a wrong angle.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : No reflections please.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : I have not said half percent of what was said in the Parliament. Sir, by any chance I am not casting any aspersions on anyone. I feel that social education will enable the hon. Members to grasp things better.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : Better leave this topic and leave alone the hon. Members.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Coming to the University, Sir, I feel that the Science Department has not been fairly treated. We need bigger and better equipped laboratories; we need chairs in the different branches

of Science because it is only then that we will be able to have better scientists and better technical men who will help the State of Punjab to establish itself once again on the same high standard at which it used to be before the partition. In the Medical section, the grants are a bit satisfactory but it is desirable that still more grants should be given so that the existing colleges are expanded and are to take in more students for medical studies so that we may have more doctors and other trained personnel that are needed in connection with the health drive in the country. It is very necessary that there should be higher grants to the lower sections of medical education so that large number of students and in a short space of time should come out for tackling the health problem of the State. I had many more things to say but as my time is up, I resume my seat.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : Sir, I have 6 P.M. been listening with rapt attention to the speeches made on the floor of the House today by the hon. Members on the Education demand. I feel, Sir, that some of the criticisms that have been levelled against the Education Department are more based on lack of information and lack of knowledge than on facts. All the same, I must thank the hon. Members for the interest that they have taken in this department and for their contribution and for their suggestions to improve the department in the various fields of its activities.

Beginning with the criticism of Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, I would like to remind him that it is a recognised principle and an accepted principle throughout the world that for the advancement of a nation education is of prime importance. The progress of a nation depends more on the intellectual development and character of its people, than on its natural resources. We in our country feel that due to low percentage of education of our people we are more conservative in taking to new and advanced methods of agriculture and industry. If we compare Africa with Scotland, we will find that the people of Africa are far more backward and they are mentally dwarfs in every way in spite of the vast natural resources of their country as compared to the people of Scotland where there is nothing but stones. My hon. Friend criticised the Government for the low salaries of teachers in the Education Department. I am painfully conscious of the fact that our officers are in spite of their high academic qualifications not getting as much as they ought to and there is always a tendency in them to take to professions more paying. In this connection I am sure that my hon. Friend will appreciate that it depends on the financial position of the State. Nobody is more keen than I to increase their salaries but that can only be done if and when funds permit. Some steps in this direction have already been taken and more will be done as circumstances improve. (*Hear, hear*). Some defects in the system of education were pointed out. I am reminded of a Sanskrit saying अथ क्रीच शिक्षा which means that education should be such as to make a person earn his living. I myself feel that there are to some extent defects in our system of education and every possible endeavour is being made to remove those defects. This problem is not confined to our State only but extends to the whole of the country and is being tackled on a country-wide basis and I am sure some satisfactory solution would be found to remedy it.

Sir, now I come to the objection raised by my hon. Friend regarding the examination system that is in vogue in the State. The University Commission is also considering this very question and on approval of this report we will examine the system of examinations in the light of its recommendation and replace this system with the objective tests wherever it is possible to do so. This much about the points raised by hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. My Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh compared the amounts that we are spending on education in our State with the sums that the

[Minister for Education]

States like Bombay and Madras are spending. Need I remind my friend that he should, while comparing these figures, keep in mind the financial position of the different States. I on my part, am very anxious to spend as much as possible on the education of the children of Punjab and the House will see that 46% of the total amount that is being spent on beneficent departments is to be spent on Education. I may further assure the House that as the finances of our State improve, Government will be too glad to spend much larger amounts on education. Because we know that only by educating the populace of our State we can raise Punjab to the heights to which we all wish it to rise.

Government has been criticised for opening a College at Hissar. The reasons for doing so are that there are 16 high schools in the district and the boys after passing their matriculation examination have to go to Delhi or Rohtak for higher studies. The demand for a college at Hissar was being felt keenly and the Government has, therefore, decided to start one this year. The need for a building for the college has been met by housing it in the building which was hitherto occupied by the Government school. The school has been shifted to Dalhousie. Even this act of the Government has been criticised by my Friends. If they realise that Dalhousie is situated in the border area and the needs of the people living at the border should be looked to, they will not object to a high school being opened there. Being a border district we must look to the needs of the officers of Government and other people who stay there.

My Friend Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail has suggested that education cess should be levied in the State to promote the growth of education. I may tell my hon. Friend that the Government is considering to hand over, if possible, primary education to the Panchayats, and we will allow them to raise educational cess if they want to do so. The next point raised by my Friend is the language formula. He has criticised the Government for not enforcing the formula so far. The reason for not doing so is that the Government did not think it practicable to enforce it in the middle of the school session. It will be put into force from the next school session—April, 1950. Here I wish to make an appeal to the hon. Members of this House that it is our duty to give both the languages—Punjabi and Hindi their due status. Punjabi is the language which is spoken in most of the parts of the Punjab. Hindi is the language of the Republic of India and has been assigned a position in the Constitution of our country. As Minister in charge of the Department of Education it is my duty to see that Hindi and Punjabi get their due place in the State. I appeal to all sections of the people in the Punjab to bear in mind that both the languages are our own and we should create an atmosphere in which both Hindi and Punjabi should get their due place. Nobody in the State of Punjab should have a prejudice against any of them.

Then, Sir, there was some criticism about the text books in the schools. We have set up an Advisory Board and it is going into the question of text books. Where it is felt that there is a shortage of books on a particular subject, new books will be allowed to be prescribed. This question is receiving the attention of the Government.

There was another complaint raised by some Friends that schools in the border areas were not receiving due attention. This is not a fact. Liberal grants have been given to them to function. The sum thus given is Rs. 35,000/-.

As regards the criticism levelled against the department by Sardar Bachan Singh, most of the points have been met by Sardar Shiv Saran Singh and I will not go over those points again. Government intends to help the poorer classes from the amounts which are at its disposal in the Harijan Welfare Scheme and Red Cross Funds. I may assure the House that students from rural areas will draw reserved benefit from the existing schemes of scholarships, for study in Middle and High Schools, which gives reservation to vernacular schools.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What about Primary Education in rural areas ?

Minister for Education : This is the concern of the Government and I may tell my Friend that we always keep the words of Mahatma Gandhi in mind that 'rural areas are our first and last care' and we will do what we can in this respect.

Next, Sir, I come to the criticism of Shri Dev Raj Sethi. He said that the Secretariat of the Education Department is over-staffed. I do not agree with my hon. Friend on this score. I am sure if he sees the amount of work that is being done by the department he will agree with me that this is not so. On my part I feel that the staff is over-worked. But if at any stage we feel that there is scope for reduction, Government will not hesitate to bring about that change. The report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee will be carefully considered.

Then there was a point regarding expenditure on Anglo-Indian Schools. In reply I have to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the Constitution in which provision has been made for such an expenditure. I feel that it is wise on the part of the Central Government to have provided this in the Constitution of the country. The hon. Member who raised this point will realise that I am helpless in this matter and his wishes cannot be respected.

There was also a mention of the Baden Powell Association and the Boy Scouts Association. There is no Baden Powell Association now. The two Scouts Associations are known as the Boy Scouts and Hindustan Scouts Associations. Both of them are doing national work and shortly they are going to be merged on all India level and this question will be solved for ever. The Young Farmer's Clubs are spread over all the districts and are 150 in number. In my opinion they are doing very useful work and whenever we feel that they are not doing any good work we will disband them.

Now I come to the points raised by my Sister Shrimati Sita Devi. I quite agree that female education should receive much more attention than it is at present being given. But the lack of funds is our problem here again. To overcome this shortage we are going to encourage co-education in the primary schools. The question regarding secondary schools is under consideration. I remember having read the story and agree with that great man Napoleon. Some one asked him as to how the French Nation could be made happy; the reply was, 'Educate the French mother.' I myself feel that to educate women is better than to educate men.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : This is bachelor's feeling.

Minister for Education : Then, Sir, there was some discussion about the disrupted colleges. In this connection I may inform the House that we are giving special grants to these colleges consistent with our financial position. Further we have asked for a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs from the Government of India and if we receive this sum every college will be helped.

(Minister for Education)

The Grade of the D. P. I. has been reduced from 2000-75-2300 to 1800-75-2000. Thus the House will see that it has not been increased.

Pandit Jiwan Lal in his speech suggested that handwork with vocational and technical education is the need of free India. My department realises the strength of the argument and we have already made a start in that direction. We are doing our utmost to encourage handwork and technical education in all stages in the schools. Basic schools will satisfy this need to a very great extent.

My hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh complained that 'begar' is prevalent in the rural areas. As far as I can see people are now much enlightened and do not submit themselves to this primitive form of social evil. So far no such case has come to the notice of the Government and if my hon. Friend brings any it will be looked into. He also said that the Harijan students are not getting their due share in the form of scholarships and stipends. I would for his information tell him that the Harijan Welfare Scheme which the Government has decided has been circularised in the schools and we are getting some sort of certificate from every headmaster that he understands that scheme. I can assure the hon. Member that everything possible is being done for the welfare of Harijan students. (*Hear, hear*).

A novel charge was levelled by Pandit Shri Ram Sharma saying that Degrees were being sold and purchased. No such case has ever come to my notice and if he brings any, I will not hesitate to take drastic action against the culprits.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh wanted some of the colleges to be closed, and the money so saved spent on primary education.

Sardar Swaran Singh : A very good suggestion indeed !

Minister for Education : My hon. Friend conveniently forgets that for the spread of education we require teachers and professors and where will those teachers and professors come from if we close down the colleges as suggested by him ? Moreover, higher education is also very essential for the progress of a country. As for primary education in rural areas, I can assure him that it is the primary duty of our Government to look after the rural interests and the Government is paying special attention to the rural people. (*Hear, hear*). Reference was made to the Peasants Welfare Fund. I may inform the House that the Peasants Welfare Fund was abolished on partition and those scholarships have been merged in the general scholarships.

Then I come to the remarks made by Sardar Swaran Singh. I can assure him that the interest of education is uppermost in my heart. I have made it clear to the managing bodies of the various institutions that if they want to raise the fees by 50% they will have the sanction of the Government. We have also impressed upon the local bodies municipal committees, district boards and the like that they should enhance their local rates and spend that money on education.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Local rate should be equal to land revenue.

Minister for Education : With regard to the superfluous colleges, I have already instructed my department to find out if there are any and if it is found that there are any, they will either be closed or shifted to suitable places.

Professor Sher Singh made a very nice suggestion about basic education. This point is receiving the earnest attention of the Government. The idea is to impart basic education with emphasis on vocational and practical arts and crafts.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma made a reference to Kangra district. I may inform him that we have been generous enough to give special grants to all those high schools that have been started after the partition.

I am glad to inform Bhagat Buja Ram that a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 has been provided for the schools in Pataudi, Dujana and Loharu. (*Hear, hear*)

Now, Sir, I come to the activities of the Department of Education. It is quite encouraging to know that we are spending about 46% of the total Budget provided for beneficent departments. Out of that, we were spending 50% on Primary Education ; 23% on Secondary Education ; 14% on Collegiate Education ; 2% on Training ; 7% on Administration and Control and 4% on Miscellaneous. I may for the information of the hon. Members add that the increase of expenditure on collegiate education by 2% from 12 to 14 in 1950-51 is significant and provides for additional staff and facilities for the proper functioning of the existing colleges especially the disrupted and the newly opened colleges owing to increase in enrolment. If we compare the last year's figures with those of the current year, it will be found that there has been a substantial increase in the enrolment of students in primary, middle and high schools as well as in the colleges.

As regards the financial assistance, I may inform the House that during the year 1949-50 we gave the following amounts :—

(a) Grants to privately managed and local body A.V. Secondary Schools:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Regular maintenance grants. | 2,53,172/- |
| D.A. Grants. | 44,381/- |
| Special Grant. | 1,36,878/- |

Local Body Schools :

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Regular maintenance Grant. | 1,25,502/- |
| D.A. Grant. | 25,109/- |
| Special Grant. | 28,999/- |

(b) Grants to local bodies for Primary Education.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| District Boards | 88,97,717 plus 3,37,495/-
for camp schools. |
| Urban Committees. | 6,51,223/- |

(c) Grants to the privately managed colleges and the Punjab University.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Maintenance grants to aided colleges. | 63,000/- |
| Grant on a/c of dearness allowance to aided colleges. | 27,499/- |
| Maintenance grant to privately managed colleges. | 3,00,000/- |
| Grant to the Punjab University, | 3,08,000/- |
| Library grant to the Punjab University. | 5,000/- |

[Minister for Education]

| | |
|---|----------|
| Additional grant to the University. | 7,500/- |
| O.V.V.R. Institute Sadhu Ashram, Hoshiarpur. | 5,000 |
| Further Education Scheme. | 53,000/- |
| Financial aid to students belonging to backward classes (on stipends only) | 83,266/- |

(approximately) from
April 1949 to February 1950.

The time at my disposal is very short but the figures that I have given to the House will amply show the desire of the Government to give as much help as possible to the educational institutions in the Punjab. As funds become available more and more money will be spent.

The Government is anxious to implement the resolution of the Punjab Legislative Assembly for the introduction of primary compulsory education in the State. The population of the State is estimated to be 1,23,86,915 and the number of children of school going age is estimated at 18,59,037. For the children of the school going age that we have, we require 12,400 schools but the number of existing primary schools both for boys and girls is 3,500. We require 18,000 teachers. At present compulsion is being enforced in 1,040 rural and 28 urban areas. I assure the House that as trained teachers and funds become available we will take steps to increase the area in which compulsory primary education will be introduced. The House will note with interest that in addition to regular maintenance grants to privately managed and local body schools, special grants amounting to Rs.2,62,532 and 2,35,367/- have been given in the year 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively, to enable them to meet the requirements of increase in salaries and dearness allowances. Disrupted schools, new schools, border schools and backward areas have been specially kept in mind while giving these special grants. We have also granted a sum of Rs.80,000 extra to the University. It will be of interest to know that we have set up an Advisory Board to advise the Government in all matters connected with education. Twenty-five basic schools and 134 social educational centres—108 for men and 26 for women have been set up. I have already made a reference to the language formula and I will only add this much that it will come into force at an early date.

I would like to make a mention about the relief that has been given to refugee students. In the form of grants we have spent a sum of Rs. 19,99,623 and in the form of loans a sum of Rs.4,78,496. We have employed a large number of refugee teachers and are giving extensions to enable them to earn their livelihood.

The local bodies' displaced teachers have been experiencing great difficulty in the matter of their arrears of pay and provident funds which are due to them from the West Punjab. The Pakistan Government, as is well known, does not intend to pay anything and considering the distressed condition of these teachers, we propose to grant them interim relief up to the extent of 50% out of those funds. (*Hear, hear*) In order to help the ex-service personnel for their rehabilitation and further education, we are spending a sum of Rs.53,000.

Sir, I have got so many facts and figures with me which I wanted to lay before the House but as the time is up, I will only refer to what this Government has done for the students of backward classes. Our Government has spent Rs.30,050 in 1948-49 and Rs 83,266 in 1949-50 for the benefit of students belonging to the backward classes in the form of stipends. (*Loud applause*).

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That the demand be reduced by Rs.100/-

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,78,60,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Education.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd March 1950.

Qaumi Press, Jullundur City.

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Price 2/14/-

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 23rd March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR

Sardar Partap Singh : Sir, the demand that is going to be discussed today is a very important one and there are a number of members who wish to take part in the discussion. I, therefore request that the Chief Minister be asked to agree to my suggestion that the question hour be dispensed with today.

Chief Minister : You will notice, Sir, that today is 23rd but we are going to take up the list of questions printed for the 14th. As we are lagging behind so far as the questions are concerned, I regret that it is not possible for me to agree to the suggestion of my hon. Friend for dispensing with the question hour.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER SERVICES.

* 1387 **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the districts which are unrepresented in higher services in the Punjab ;
- (b) the number of Superintendents and Secretariat Officers in the Civil Secretariat, Simla, who belong to Haryana and Kangra districts ;
- (c) the basis on which names are recommended for Extra Assistant Commissionership from the Secretariat Staff?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Recruitment to higher services in the Punjab is not made on districtwise basis and the time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with the value of the information.

Superintendents—3, Secretariat Officers—nil.

[Chief Minister]

- (c) All persons who fulfil the required qualifications are permitted to apply. They are interviewed by a Committee consisting of the Chief Secretary and one or two other Secretaries to Government. The selections are based on merit and only those persons are recommended for Extra Assistant Commissionership whose records of service justify special promotion. In making selections educational qualifications as well as record of service are taken into consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government in future adopt some such policy by which proper representation may be given to the different districts in services ?

Chief Minister : No reservation can be made for any particular district. However we shall consider this question and try to do justice to all places.

SOCIALIST WORKERS

***1390. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

- the number of Socialist workers arrested districtwise before and after the last budget session respectively ;
- the number of those released from detention before their terms expired ;
- the number of those still in jail ;
- the total arrests made in connection with tenants movement ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Arrested before Budget Session, 1949. Nil.

Arrested after Budget Session, 1949.

| | | | |
|------------|-----|---|----------------------------------|
| Hissar | 75 | { | Arrested under ordinary law. |
| Rohtak | 7 | | -do- |
| Ambala | 18 | | -do- |
| | 3 | { | Detained u/s 3 E.P.P.S.A. |
| Ludhiana | 11 | | Arrested under ordinary law. |
| | 1 | { | Detained u/s 3 E.P.P.S.A. |
| Ferozepur | 1 | | Arrested under ordinary law. |
| Hoshiarpur | 4 | { | Arrested under ordinary law. |
| Jullundur | 3 | | Arrested u/s 13/19 E.P.P.S.A., 4 |
| Total | 123 | | 119 (arrested) |
| | — | | 4 (detained). |

(b) 87 (including 1 detenu).

(c) —

(d) 80.

FACILITIES TO PERSONS DETAINED IN POLICE LOCK-UPS

* 1514. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the persons detained and confined in the police lock-ups are given the same diet and other clothing facilities which they are entitled to get in the jails or detention camps ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The persons detained and confined in Police Lock-ups are given the same diet facilities to which they are entitled in Jails and detention camps. As regards clothing facilities, men detained in or confined to Police lock-ups are governed by Police Rule 26.4.(4) as reconstructed by correction slip No. 451 dated 14-5-1942, according to which ordinarily each prisoner is issued 1 blanket and 1 manj or bhabhar mat in summer and 3 blankets in winter.

Private bedding is allowed.

HUNGER STRIKE BY COMMUNIST DETENUS

* 1516. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Communist detenus of the camp jail, Yole and some other jails have gone on hunger strike; if so, since when ;
- (b) the number of the detenus on hunger strike in each jail of the State ;
- (c) whether the hunger strikers sent any representation to the Government regarding their demands before they went on hunger strike ; if so, the nature of demands put up by them ;
- (d) whether these demands were considered by Government ; if so ; with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) & (b) A statement containing the required information is laid on the table.

- (c) First part :— No.

Second part:— Does not arise.

- (d) Some demands were received after and not before the detenus proceeded on hunger strike. Most of these demands were a repetition of the demands made in September and October, 1949 which have already been considered by Government and decisions regarding which have already been communicated to the communist detenus. Some of the new demands, namely, that the communist detenus should be openly tried or in the alternative released unconditionally and that they should be given the right to suggest reforms in the conditions of service of Jail Warders are from their very nature unacceptable.

[Chief Minister]

Statement showing the dates from which the Communist detenues in different Jails resorted to hunger strike and their present number.

| Name of Jail | Date of resorting to hunger-strike. | Number. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Camp Jail Yole. | 10—1—50 | 44 |
| District Jail Gurdaspur. | 26—1—50 | 6 |
| Central Jail Ambala. | 5—2—50 | 23 detenus
4 Communist Convicts |
| Central Jail Ferozepur. | 7—2—50 | 14 |
| District Jail Jullundur. | 11—2—50 | 16 |
| District Jail Ludhiana. | 12—2—50 | 21 detenus
14 Communist convicts and
one undertrial. |
| District Jail Hissar. | 15—2—50 | 13 |
| Sub-Jail Hoshiarpur. | 23—2—50 | 1 |

CONVEYANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNIST DETENUS

*1517. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- the distance between Yole Camp jail and Dharamsala ;
- the arrangements for conveyance of the communist detenus made from Dharamsala to Yole Camp and vice versa ;
- whether any detenus were brought from Dharamsala to Camp jail, Yole on 12. 2. 50 ; if so, their number and the arrangements made for their conveyance ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 6 miles.

(b) Detenus from Dharamsala to Yole and vice versa are conveyed by public vehicles of Valley View Company.

(c) First part :— No.

Second part :— Does not arise.

CHAKBANDI RECORDS OF CANAL OUTLETS

* 1589. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- whether the chakbandi records of a canal outlet have been declared a secret document and the public is not allowed to inspect these records or get copies of the same from the canal department, if so, since when ;

- (b) whether any applications for the attested copies of the chakbandi records pertaining to warabandi time fixed were made to the Upper Bari Doab Canal authorities during the years 1948 and 1949 : if so, the total number of such applications received during the aforesaid period ;
- (c) whether Government proposed to lift the ban, if any, and declare these records open to public ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No. The public is at liberty to inspect these and to obtain copies thereof on payment.

b) Yes. Four in 1948 and 3 in 1949.

(c) Does not arise.

INSPECTORS OF POLICE

*** 1590. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of police officers who are confirmed Inspectors of Police ;
- (b) the temporary ranks they are holding together with the stations where they are posted at present ;
- (c) the names of police officers who are posted as Superintendents of Police in the State ;
- (d) the names of the confirmed police Inspectors who are posted as Deputy Superintendents of Police and Superintendents of Police at present ;
- (e) the date since when each of them is working in his present post and rank ;
- (f) the reasons for their promotion to higher ranks ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) A statement showing the names of confirmed Inspectors of Police and Prosecuting Inspectors of Police is placed on the table.*

- (b) This information is contained in columns 3 and 4 of the statement.
- (c) It is presumed that the hon. Member wants to know the names of the Inspectors of Police, who are posted as Superintendents of Police. This information is also contained in column 3 of the statement.

* kept in the Library.

AEROPLANES USED BY THE GOVERNMENT

* 1617. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of aeroplanes purchased by the Punjab Government, the date on which they were purchased, the price paid, together with the charges for their maintenance and repairs and any other incidental expenditure incurred thereon upto 31-12-49 ;
- (b) the total mileage covered by the planes upto 31-12-49 and the expenses incurred per mile ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government has discontinued the use of these planes ; if so, since when and the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether Government intends to dispose them of ; if so, when and in what manner ;
- (e) whether Government intends to purchase new aeroplanes ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No. of aeroplanes purchased by the Punjab Government Two.

(ii) Date of purchase 18th October

(iii) Price paid Rs. 80,000/-

(iv) Charges for their maintenance repairs and other incidental expenditure incurred upto 31-12-49 Rs. 49,446/6/-

(b) (i) Total mileage covered upto 31-12-49 37,300
(ii) Expenses incurred per mile Rs. 2/1/- approximately (including depreciation and interest on Capital.)

(c) No.

(d) The question is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the financial condition of the State, does the Chief Minister consider it advisable to spend Rs. 2/1/- per mile on journey by air when travel by car costs only ten annas a mile ?

Chief Minister : When these aeroplanes were purchased the financial condition of the State was duly taken into consideration. It was decided to purchase these because a good deal of time is saved by travelling by air.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does the Government propose to sell these planes new ?

Chief Minister : As I have already replied the matter is being considered.

- (iii) the date when each of them was promoted to the rank of Inspector, officiating or on probation ;
- (iv) the date when each of the persons mentioned in sub parts (i), (ii) and (iii) of part (c) above was promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.*

- (b) No. One of the permanent Inspectors in the Jullundur Range, however, has not earned promotion to Deputy Superintendent of Police for the reason that before partition of the Province he had to be reverted from officiating Deputy Superintendent of Police to his substantive rank of Inspector for misconduct. This reversion was ordered by the late Punjab Government after consulting the Punjab and N. W. F. Provinces Joint Public Service Commission.
- (c) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.*

GAZETTED POLICE OFFICERS

***1592. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the gazetted police officers was suspended by the Government during the year 1949-50 ; and prosecuted for bribery charges ; if so, the name of such officer ;
- (b) whether any such officer was honourably acquitted by the court or was given the benefit of doubt ;
- (c) whether any of the aforesaid police officers mentioned in part (b) above was departmentally dealt with after his acquittal by the court ;
- (d) whether any such officer was reinstated as Superintendent of Police by the Government during the year 1949-50, if so, when ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No gazetted Police Officer was suspended by the Punjab Government during the year 1949-50 ; or prosecuted for bribery.

(b, c & d) Do not arise.

* kept in the Library.

[Chief Minister]

- (d) This information is given in column 3 of the statement.
- (e) The required information is given in columns 5 and 6 of the statement.
- (f) Under Police Rule 13.1, promotion is made by selection tempered by seniority-efficiency coupled with honesty being the main governing factors.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that many Inspectors have been officiating as Deputy Superintendents of Police but have not been promoted ?

Chief Minister : The reply is only possible if a definite case is cited.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that one S. Gurpuran Singh a permanent Inspector who was officiating as a Deputy Superintendent of Police and who went to the Military Department on 12-8-47 has not been promoted ?

Chief Minister : It is not possible to decide about a person's efficiency when he goes to Military Department or some other Department and therefore he cannot be promoted.

Sardar Bachan Singh : How is it that one Mr. Rikhi Kesh who has been officiating as Superintendent of Police since 15-8-47 has not been promoted ?

Chief Minister : He was not found fit for promotion.

SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE

* 1591. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of such confirmed Sub-Inspectors of Police as are officiating as Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents of Police in Jullundur Division together with the places where they are posted at present ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that any of the aforesaid officers was given a preference over the Inspectors of Police for promotion as Deputy Superintendent of Police in any District of Jullundur Division after the partition ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) the names of the Deputy Superintendents of Police who remain posted in Amritsar District during the year 1949 together with the following particulars :—
 - (i) the date when each of them was confirmed as Sub-Inspector ;
 - (ii) the date when each of them was confirmed as Police Inspector ;

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How many times have these planes been used during the last six months ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is he not aware of the fact that neither he nor any other Minister used these planes during the last six months ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member knows it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If the hon. Chief Minister knows about it, why did he say that he required notice for giving this information ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the purpose for which these planes were purchased been served ?

Chief Minister : I can't say if the purpose has been served. As I have already submitted the Government is considering the question of disposing of these aeroplanes. If considered necessary, they will be retained otherwise they will be sold.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : In view of the fact that the Chief Minister is suffering from high blood pressure, up to what height is he advised to fly ?

Chief Minister : As a doctor I am advised to fly up to any height.
(Laughter.)

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Where are these aeroplanes kept ?

Chief Minister : At Jullundur.

STATE CARS FOR MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

* 1618. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister, Punjab did use a State-owned car; if so, the exact period for which it was used ;
- (b) the mileage covered by the said car for the official tours of the Chief Minister ;
- (c) the total expenses of every description including the depreciation of the car incurred on account of the official tours ;
- (d) the expenses per mile worked out as a result of this experience ;
- (e) whether Government proposes to recommend the use of State cars by the hon. Ministers and Heads of Departments ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes ; the following cars were used for the period noted against each :—

[Chief Minister]

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Studebaker Commander (E.P.—1) | 30—4—49 to 16—5—49 |
| Mercury Ford (E.P.J—2210) | 17—5—49 to 17—7—49 |
| Chevrolet (E.P.1) | 18—7—49 to 21—12—49 |

(b) 10,160 miles.

(c) Rs. 6,539/5/- including loss on re-sale of studebaker car for the entire period from 30—4—49 to 21—12—49.

(d) -/10/3 per mile, but if the loss on resale, excluding depreciation is omitted, the cost per mile would work out to -/7/4.

(e) No, since it is not likely to result in any appreciable saving in expenditure to the Government hon. Ministers and Heads of Departments respectively get only -/10/- and -/8/- per mile for official journeys in their private cars and as a result of the above experience, it does not seem desirable to recommend the use of State-owned cars as a matter of principle.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know why the Chief Minister had to change his car five or six times during the short period of last six months ?

Chief Minister : It was considered necessary to do so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does not the hon. Chief Minister think that supplying of State cars to those Ministers who have their own cars as well is likely to encourage them to undertake unnecessary tours in the State cars ?

Chief Minister : The Ministers never undertake unnecessary tours

MURDER OF SHRI CHARAN DASS OF VILLAGE UDHOWALI.

* 1634. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Charan Dass a young Harijan of village Udhowali was murdered on or about the 15th August, 1949, when the deceased had gone to see a fair at village Ghazi Nangal, Police Station Dera Baba Nanak ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Police authorities have so far failed to trace out the murderers ;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the measures, if any, the Government proposes to take to trace out the murderer or murderers ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The investigation has been entrusted to the Inspector, C.I.A and no effort is being spared to find out the real culprits.

HARIJANS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

***1636. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of Superintendents of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors of Police-Sub-Inspectors of Police and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police in the Police Department in the State ;

(b) whether the Government aware of the fact that the percentage of the Harijans is very low in the Police Department ;

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the steps Government propose to take to increase their percentage ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Permanent Sanctioned strength is as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Superintendents of Police | 29 |
| Deputy Superintendents of Police | 37 |
| Inspectors of Police | 108 |
| Sub-Inspectors of Police | 685 |
| Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police | 706 |

(b) In high ranks.

(c) Necessary instructions were issued and a large number of Harijans has been enrolled, who in due course should gain promotion to the higher ranks. In Police over 75 per cent of promotions are made by promotion.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know the number of Harijans among Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police ?

Chief Minister : I shall be able to give the necessary information on receipt of notice.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : If the number of Harijans in the police is less than fifteen per cent, is the Chief Minister prepared to take steps to bring their number to the prescribed limit ?

Chief Minister : The principle of giving fifteen per cent posts in the police is kept in view at the time of making recruitment, but no reservation can be made in posts filled by promotion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government given effect to its decision of giving fifteen per cent posts to the Harijans ?

Chief Minister : Yes, it has been put into effect.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How many Harijans have been taken in the Police Department ?

Chief Minister : I shall be able to give exact information, if the hon. Member gives notice. As answered by me in part (d) of the reply a considerable number of them has been already taken.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has a sufficient number of Harijans been recruited in all ranks of the police ?

Chief Minister : As I have already submitted, this decision is kept in view at the time of making direct recruitment. I can't say how many Harijans have been actually taken. This principle cannot be observed in the case of posts filled by promotion.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Have some Harijans been directly recruited as Superintendents or Deputy Superintendents of police ?

Chief Minister : No direct recruitment of Superintendents or Deputy Superintendents of Police has been made since this decision.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : It must be within the knowledge of the Government that in Hoshiarpur district alone 160 Harijan girls have been abducted and they have not been recovered so far. As the Police is responsible for the life and property of the people, does the Government intend to give the prescribed representation to the Harijans in the Police Department at least ?

Chief Minister : At the time of making direct recruitment they will be taken according to the proportion fixed for them.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is some special concession given to Harijan candidates in the competitive examination held for recruitment in police force ?

Chief Minister : The question of any concession does not rise. Only Harijan compete with Harijans because a definite percentage of posts have been reserved for them.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it not a fact that when selection for Sub-Inspectors was held Mr. Prem a candidate was not taken although he failed only by one mark ?

Chief Minister : In which department ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : - In the Police Department.

Chief Minister : Mr. Prem failed by twelve marks and not by one as stated by the hon. Member.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Is it not a fact that twelve of his companions who were Hindus and Sikhs were taken ?

Minister : There is no truth in it.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Does the Government intend punishing those officers who do not have fifteen percent Harijans in their departments ?

Chief Minister : If it is brought to the notice of the Government some action can be taken in this matter.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN SERVICES OF THE STATE.

*** 1637. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the percentage of the Members of the Scheduled castes in Government service in all the Departments under the Punjab Government separately ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the percentage of the Scheduled caste is below that fixed for them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) and (b) This information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member in due course.

COMMUNIST ATTACK ON CONGRESS OFFICE IN AMRITSAR.

*** 1641. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some communists attacked the office of the Amritsar City Congress Committee and burnt it ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that its chaprasi was also beaten ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that S. Naurang Singh, Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, was roughly handled and given severe lathi blows ;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the communists who attacked the Congress Office were armed with deadly weapons such as revolvers, kirches and kirpans and fired 2 or 3 bullets ;
- (e) the total number of casualties—dead and wounded, as a result of this attack ;
- (f) the total number of communists who attacked the Congress office ;

[D. Sant Ram Seth]

- (g) the total number of arrests made so far including the lady workers;
- (h) the total number of communists who tendered apology to the Government ;
- (i) the total number of such communists whose apologies were accepted ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes, but they did not burn any property.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, he was assaulted.

(d) Yes.

(e) Five wounded, including 1 publicman ; none was killed.

(f) About fifty.

(g) 44, including six lady workers.

(h) Nil.

(i) Does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that among those arrested were some lady relatives of some of the responsible police officials ?

Chief Minister : This can be enquired into if a due notice is given to the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the attack was carried on by the communists or simply because some rowdy elements attacked, they were dubbed as communists ?

Chief Minister : A meeting was organised by the communists and a procession was taken out. So there is no doubt about them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government know for certain that the communist party has any hand in this incident ?

Chief Minister : Those who are responsible for this attack have admitted that they followed communist principles and there are no doubt that they have been working on communist lines.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

***1661. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) The travelling allowance drawn by the Heads of different Departments of the Punjab Government during the year 1949-50;
- (b) The Heads of Departments who stayed in Simla from 15th January to 20th February 1950.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

- (a) and (b) The time and labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

PRISONERS IN JAILS.

***1662. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the honourable Chief Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the daily income per prisoner which the Government derives from work done by prisoners sentenced to hard labour in different jails of the State ;
- (b) the expense Government has to incur on each such prisoner;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any cottage industries in the jails of the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Average profit per prisoner sentenced to labour for the year 1948 was Re 1/8/11. It is regretted that the figure for the year 1949 is not yet available. It is being worked out by the Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab.

(b) The total cost per prisoner for the year 1948 was Rs. 485/13/8. It is regretted that the figure for the year 1949 is not yet available. It is being worked out by the Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab.

(c) Yes. A list is laid on the table.

List of Cottage Industries carried out in Punjab (India) Jails.

TEXTILES. Towels, Dusters, Dasuti, Garaha, Newar.
Gotton tape and Nathi Thread.
Cotton durries.
Carpentary.
Smithy.
Leather Industry.
MUNJ INDUSTRY. Munj Ban and Munj Mats.
Book Binding.
Chick making and Bamboo brooms.
File laces and Tags.
Caning of chairs.
Pilchi Baskets.
Dyeing.
Wool spinning.
Sutli making.
Charkha manufacture.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the industries in jails even now are the same which used to be about 20 years ago and that there has been no improvement in them?

Chief Minister : As a matter of fact the industries must be the same even after hundred years but so far as the methods are concerned, there has been a lot of improvement.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the average income per prisoner is anna one only while the expenditure is Rs. 1½?

Chief Minister : This has been replied to.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the various departments are compelled to buy these articles.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the honourable Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of hours for which the prisoners have to work?

Chief Minister : I think they don't work for more than five or six hours daily. But I cannot tell the amount of work they do.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that many departments have written to the Government that they do not wish to purchase paper produced in jails?

Chief Minister : The honourable Member should know that no department makes any direct purchase from the Jails Department. All purchases are made by the Store Purchase Department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the honourable Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the report of Jails Enquiry Committee has been received? If so, does it show any improvement?

Chief Minister : Some aspects of the situation have been under consideration. As regards the amount of increase in income it will have to be worked out.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the honourable Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the work is extracted from the prisoners in view of the good that it might do to them or as a measure of punishment or as a means of production only?

Chief Minister : The work is taught to the prisoners with a view to enable them to earn their living when they may come out of the prison.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the honourable Chief Minister be pleased to state the nature of any technical aid that has been provided by the Government to these prisoners?

Chief Minister : The prisoners are given aid by the teachers in charge and the Principal, Government College Rohtak is an honorary adviser in such matters.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the names of the industries taught which may be useful to the prisoners when they come out of four walls of the jail ?

Chief Minister : All the industries taught are useful.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of such persons who have learnt such industries and who are getting benefits out of them ?

Chief Minister : This should be the business of the Prisoners Aid society to enquire.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does this Government get any reports to find out that the technical aid is properly given ?

Chief Minister : We receive monthly reports to this effect.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know in which industry more progress has been achieved ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether there are any Members of this House in the Prisoners Aid Society.

Chief Minister : It is a private body and not a Government Society.

Shri Virendra : Since several Members of this Legislature have evinced great interest in the prisoners, may I know whether they are prepared to stay with them for some time and see things for themselves ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order, order disallowed.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

***1663. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the amount of money subscribed to daily newspapers in the State from April 1949 to October 1949 and from November 1949 to January 1950.
- (b) the criterion for Government's patronage to the daily newspapers to which it subscribes ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, even today the old and hackneyed arguments are advanced and information is held back from the hon. Members of the House on the plea that it is not in 'public interest' and will not be commensurate with any possible benefit. I expected that with the change of time Government will not follow the old tactics.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Government is the best judge in such matters ; the hon. Member cannot compel it to give a reply.

Chief Minister : It is not desirable that the time of the House should be wasted.

FEDERAL LANGUAGE.

*1695. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise the federal language in the state;
- (b) whether any step has been taken by the Government to replace English and Urdu by the federal language ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) and (b) Under the Constitution of India, English shall continue to be used for a further period of fifteen years for all official proposes for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution. Government, however, made it obligatory for all Government servants to learn Hindi and Punjabi in the meantime. In regard to replacement of Urdu, this will be done when all concerned have learnt Hindi and Punjabi.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether Government has issued any instructions to the effect that all the Government servants should learn Hindi by a certain date so that Urdu may be replaced by the federal language ?

Chief Minister : Examination in that language were held for the Government employees. Those who failed, were given extra opportunities to pass the examinations

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know in which department the Government proposes to introduce the federal language first ?

Chief Minister : Federal language cannot be introduced unless and until all cocerned including the Government employees have fully acquainted themselves with it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Do I take it that the Government intends to introduce the federal language in 15 years or at some earlier date ?

Chief Minister : Steps to popularise the federal language will be taken in conformity with the provisions made in the Constitution of India.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether Government issued any instructions and fined some day by which Government servants were required to pass the tests in Hindi ? If so, did it take any action against those who failed to pass in it ?

Chief Minister : In the beginning an attempt was made by the Government to take action against those who failed to pass the test but as a result

of the pressure that was brought to bear upon the Government, the idea was abandoned.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether in future Government would resist such a pressure and take steps to ensure that all Government servants learnt Hindi at an early date ?

Chief Minister : It will be done only if the people bringing pressure on the Government desist from doing so.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the Government be strong enough to resist the pressure ?

Chief Minister : The difficulty is that those who bring pressure know their job and as to how to put it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether any date has been fixed by which the Ministers are required to take their test in the federal language and attain efficiency in it ?

Chief Minister : All the Ministers are Pandits. They know it already. But the pity of it is that certain hon. Members make speeches in English instead of Hindi.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether in view of decision of the Government of India to introduce the federal language after 15 years Government has made any arrangements for the replacement of English by Hindi at the expiry of 15 years or whether it has arranged to replace it gradually.

Chief Minister : It will be done gradually but endeavour will be made to replace it even before 15 years have passed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether, in view of this gradual change contemplated by the Government, it has any idea as to how replacement of English by Hindi will be brought about within 15 years ?

Chief Minister : Instructions are that before changing the language in the courts from Urdu and English into the federal language, it is essential that the technical terms in Hindi and Punjabi are fully mastered by the Government servants and the people concerned. At present the work in the courts is being carried on in Urdu and English. Therefore so long as the law books are not translated into Hindi and Punjabi and practising lawyers and the public do not make themselves fully conversant with the new technical terms, the records cannot be changed nor can correspondence be carried out in the federal as well as the regional language. Of course in the Civil Secretariat a practice has been established that a letter is replied in the same language in which it is received.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether it has come to the knowledge of the Government that in Uttar Pradesh the hon. Speaker, uses Hindustani instead of English as a vehicle of expression and the hon. Ministers even reply to questions in Hindi ? If so, what practice do they intend to follow in this House ?

Chief Minister : In Uttar Pradesh the hon. Speaker speaks in pure, literary and high flown Hindi and not Hindustani.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether any instructions have been received from the Government of India by the Punjab Government that the latter should effect a change over from Urdu into Hindi within a certain fixed period ? If so, what has the Government decided to do in the matter ?

Chief Minister : In this connection I would draw the attention of my hon. Friend to sections 345-347 of the Constitution of India on the subject of regional languages. Government intends to act strictly according to these provisions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what steps have been taken by the Government under the provisions referred to by the hon. Chief Minister, for the replacement of Urdu by Hindi ? Is there any restriction under those provisions which debars them from taking early action in the matter ?

Chief Minister : We cannot replace Urdu by Hindi with one stroke of the pen. The difficulty is that the Government servants in the courts and other offices have been mainly educated in the Urdu language, and so long as the technical terms to be used in the courts are not mastered and understood by all concerned, we cannot bring about this change. Similarly Government records cannot be changed till exact equivalents are available in Hindi language for the terms used in them.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether any Translation Department has been set up by the Government for translating the technical terms used in Government records and laws ?

Chief Minister : The Central Government has arranged for the translation of technical terms and has decided that with a view to having a uniformity the same may be used by all the States in India irrespective of the regional language written or spoken there. So till that dictionary of technical terms is ready, we cannot take effective steps in the matter.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that other States have set up their Translation Departments and if so, whether he has felt any necessity for establishing it have ?

Chief Minister : To be frank, so far the Hindi-Punjabi controversy has stood in the way of establishing such a department.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the Chief Minister please tell us from which quarters pressure is brought to bear upon him in the matter of taking action against the Government employees who fail to pass the Hindi test ?

LALA SARB DIAL ADVOCATE AND MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER.

*1627. **Dr Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to State :—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Lala Sarb Dial a leading Advocate and Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar has sent two letters to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar and made allegations against the mismanagement of the Municipal Committee, Amritsar ; if so, will he be pleased to lay the copies of both of his letters on the table ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : Yes, but it is not in public interest to disclose the contents of these letters.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that the Investigating Officer has reported that many Municipal Commissioners are also involved in this case ?

Minister : It is not in the public interest to provide this information.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO PALAMPUR.

***1640. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for public works be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that no electricity is being supplied to Palampur ;
- (b) the distance between Joginder Nagar and Palampur ;
- (c) how long will it take to supply electricity to Palampur ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) 26 miles (approximately).
- (c) It is hoped to be supplied by September, 1950, if not earlier.

GOVERNMENT CLASSICAL AND VERNACULAR TEACHERS.

***1388. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had received a printed pamphlet in the form of representation on behalf of the Government Classical and Vernacular Teachers; if so, the result thereof ;
- (b) whether these teachers are accorded the same treatment as is accorded to other class of teachers ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes.

- (i) The Union of Government Classical and Vernacular Teachers has been accorded recognition.
- (ii) Other demands of the Union are under the consideration of the Government.

(b) In the matter of grades the Classical and Vernacular teachers are not considered at par with the English teachers who possess higher educational

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qualifications. The teachers in the Classical and vernacular Section who pass B.A., B.T., are transferred to the Anglo-Vernacular Section and are given grades of that Section.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that in the beginning of the year 1947 Government accepted the demand of the Classical and Vernacular Teachers made by them in the form of a representation? Is it also a fact that they had threatened to resort to hunger-strike in case their demands were rejected? Has the Government received any representation from these teachers. If so, what action has it taken in this connection?

Minister : So far as the matter before the partition is concerned, I require notice. As regards other part, their demands are still under the consideration of the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Classical and Vernacular Teachers have been pressing the Government to accept their demands since a long time? Is it also a fact that the Government has not so far arrived at any decision about this matter?

Minister : Some of their demands have already been accepted by the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the reasons why the grades of these Classical and Vernacular teachers have not been put at par with the grades of the English teachers? Have they been denied this grade simply because they teach Hindi, Gurmukhi and Sanskrit?

Minister : They are not considered at par with the English teachers who possess higher educational qualifications,

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the same thing being done in the other countries too?

Minister : I cannot say that. However, the teachers in Classical and Vernacular section who pass B.A., B.T. are transferred to Anglo-Vernacular Section and they are given grades of that section as already stated, in the reply.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not the intention of the Government to do justice to these Classical and Vernacular teachers and thus remove their grievances?

Minister : I will have to verify.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is the Government prepared to place the grades of these Classical and Vernacular teachers at par with those of the English teachers who possess one and the same qualifications?

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

LANDLORD TENANTS PROBLEM.

***1391. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the Government have received the note prepared by Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish, M. L. A on the landlord tenants problem ; if so, whether it has been considered with any result ;
- (b) the time Government will take to solve this problem
- (c) the interim arrangements to help the tenants without harming the landlords ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes, It is being considered ;

(b) Only the time needed will be taken.

(c) It is being examined.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think it would be better if no supplementary questions are put on this question. A resolution is coming before the House for discussion and we should not anticipate the result.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : There is no non-official day in the present session now.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** How can hon. Member say that ? The session might be extended.

Hon. Members : Ask the Chief Minister if the session is going to be extended.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government considered the point that temporary ejections should be stopped ?

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

LOCAL RATES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***15. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state ,

- (a) the scale at which local rates were charged from the land owners in the Amritsar district during the year 1929-30;
- (b) the total amount of local rates assessed during the year 1929-30 in the Amritsar district ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the local rates have been enhanced

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

since 1-4-1930 in the Amritsar district; if so, on how many occasions has the enhancement been made since then, and to what extent on each occasion together with the date of each enhancement;

(d). the total amount of local rate assessed in the Amritsar district during the year 1946-47;

(e) the total rate likely to be assessed during the year 1950-51 in the above mentioned district?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) One anna per rupee on the annual value of the land.

(b) Rs. 2,01,179/-/-.

(c) Yes, the enhancement was made five times:

(i) was raised from one anna to an anna and a half per rupee from Rabi 1945.

(ii) one anna and nine pies per rupee from Kharif 1946.

(iii) two annas per rupee from Kharif 1948.

(iv) three annas per rupee for only two harvests, namely, Rabi 1949 and Kharif 1949.

(v) The enhanced rate of three annas per rupee has been allowed to continue for another two crops namely, Rabi 1950 and Kharif 1950.

(d) Rs. 3,38,100/-/-.

(e) Rs. 7,49,982/-/-.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Is it the intention of the Government to stop this enhancement of local rates?

Minister: I cannot say that.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Is the Government prepared to fix any limit?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Have any instructions been issued to the District Boards to fix any maximum limit of these rates?

Minister: No.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: In view of the fact that the District Boards cannot pull on, on account of less income and more expenditure, may I know if it is the intention of the Government to issue instructions to them to raise the local rates?

Minister: A Committee has already been set up to decide this matter, and we shall be in a position to say such things at that time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has this committee been set up by our Government?

Minister: No. It has been set up by the Government of India.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What would be the basis of the enhancement?

HARIJAN STUDENTS OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

***1635. Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Harijan students in private schools in the State are still being called upon to pay their fees, even though the Government has given them full fee concessions upto the degree classes besides scholarships and stipends from the ninth class to the degree classes;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the steps taken by the Government against the authorities of those private institutions?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh: (a) Generally not.

(b) The necessity of giving full fee concession to the Harijan and backward Sikh students under the Harijan Welfare Scheme has been impressed upon the Heads of all recognized educational institutions in the State several times.

Moreover, we have got proper receipts from the Head Masters so that they may not afterwards say that they had no knowledge of this scheme.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know if any action is taken against those Schools and Colleges which in spite of the instructions of the Government continue receiving fees from the Harijan students?

Minister: Action can be taken only at that time when any such complaint is brought to the notice of the Government. I have already stated that proper receipts from the heads of the institutions have been obtained so that they may not afterwards say that they had no knowledge about these instructions.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know if the Government proposes to take any action against those heads of the institutions who resort to such irregularities?

Minister: If the hon. Member brings such cases to the notice of the Government, action would surely be taken against them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government bear the expenditure incurred by the affiliated schools in connection with the fee concession to the Harijan students ?

Minister : Harijan students directly receive financial assistance under the Harijan Welfare Scheme.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that in the Government Schools fee concessions are given to students and the expenditure in this connection is incurred by the Government, may I know whether the expenditure in connection with the fee concessions to the students in the affiliated schools is borne by these very privately managed institutions?

Minister for Labour : Previously full fee concessions were given to 10% students in the affiliated schools but now this percentage has been raised from 10 to 12½% and instructions to this effect have already been issued by the Government. Out of the above mentioned percentage 5 per cent Harijan students are entitled to get full fee concessions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Harijan students belonging to rich families also get fee concession ?

Master Gurbanta Singh : In face of the fact that 10 per cent fee concession has been raised to 12½ per cent which includes 5 per cent Harijan students, may I know whether any action has been taken by the Government against such schools which have not given full fee concession to 5 per cent Harijan students ?

Minister for Education : This full fee concession to 5 per cent Harijan students has been made compulsory. If any school does not follow these instructions rigidly, action is taken against it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if any unaided schools have also given this concession to Harijan students in view of the Government Instructions ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a general question.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : May I know whether St. Edward School and Bishop Cotton School are also giving concession of fee to the Harijan students ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Meha Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the Government while raising the percentage from 10 to 12½ took into consideration the financial position of the unaided schools?

Master Gurbanta Sing : Has the Government taken any action against any school which has not given full fee concession to 5% Harijan students ?

Minister : If the hon. Member quotes any specific instance, I will make an enquiry.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Should such matters be brought to the notice of the Inspector of Schools or to the Government? I have already made several complaints to the Inspector of schools but no action was taken in the matter.

Minister : You should then bring such a matter to the notice of the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it a fact that the fee concession of the students who fail in the house examinations is withdrawn?

Minister : Such students should put in hard work in their own interests.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the Government grant such concession to Harijan students?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This question has already been replied to.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it open to any objection if the unaided schools which are in a position to meet their own expenses raise the percentage of free students from 12½ to 50?

Minister : Thank you for the suggestion.

CLASSICAL TEACHERS.

*1639. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth,** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the teachers of the classical languages have given notice to the Government to increase their pays. If so, what increase they want in their pay.

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have threatened to go on hunger strike if their pays are not increased?

(a) **The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :** Yes, they want parity with A. V. teachers who are B. A, B.T. or M.A, B.F. and are appointed on Rs. 90/- or Rs. 100/- P.M. respectively in the grade of Rs. 90-5-150.

(b) Yes.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If they do not now intend to go on hunger strike, may I know what is the other method by which they can get their demands accepted?

Minister . Their two demands have been accepted.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know the nature of demands that have been accepted ?

Minister: One is that of a percentage and the other is withdrawal of order of disciplinary action.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is their demand for percentage ?

Minister : They wanted their pay to be at par with the English teachers.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know when these demands which have been accepted will be given effect to ?

Minister: The new grades will come into force with effect from 1st April, 1950.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether these new grades will be applicable to both male and female teachers?

Minister: The case of lady teachers is under the consideration of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know why the case of lady teachers is being distinguished from male teachers ?

Minister: Their conditions of service are altogether different.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it because the lady teachers have no union of their own and that no pressure is brought to bear upon the Government?

Minister: The Government is not influenced by the consideration of pressure.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know why it is not done in the case of lady teachers when their qualifications are the same?

Minister: But their conditions of service are not the same.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: If the Government is not influenced by the consideration of pressure, does it not mean that it is indifferent to public opinion ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact that the Government is afraid of holding a Session of the Assembly and the Question Hour although it may not be afraid of public pressure ?

Minister: Absolutely wrong.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not a fact that the demand of lady teachers is more reasonable than that of the male teachers?

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED AND ACTION TAKEN.

Secretary: A list of resolutions passed by the Punjab Assembly since partition and the action taken by Government on each Resolution is laid on the table.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

CHARGES ON IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) ; Sir I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,21,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,21,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

✓ Cut motions Nos. 1 to 4 seek to reduce specific charges. Cut motion No. 5 raises discussion on the policy of the Government. I would ask Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to move his motion. If the House approves, the same time limit as was fixed yesterday, namely, 15 minutes for the mover and 10 minutes for others, will be fixed for to-day also.

Hon. Members : Yes.

IRRIGATION.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) :

I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

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Sir, I shall not take much time of the House as I find that some hon. Members are more interested in this subject than myself. At any rate one or two of them have come with special preparation. As I must also keep up my traditions, I shall place my request very briefly before the Government. The construction of the Bhakra Dam on which depends the prosperity of our State and the salaries of officers and staff working in this connection form an integral part of this demand and deserve proper mention. I have special reasons to emphasise the importance of construction of this Dam as with it are linked the hopes of my part of the State. It is an old scheme and came into being during the days of the 1st world war when men were wanted by the Englishman to serve him in the Army. Many an election has been fought on this issue and people are anxiously looking to the day when their dreams would be realised. Anyhow now after the achievement of independence we are confident that sooner or later schemes and projects which at one time existed only in the shape of promises will now be given a practical shape. I am one of those Members who have had the good fortune of seeing the construction work of the Dam with their own eyes. On having seen things

[Pt Shri Ram Sharma.]

at the spot I admit that the Central Government is helping us a good deal but its refusal to advance sufficient loan for this work is a source of great disappointment for us. We should do our utmost to persuade the Centre to give us the necessary funds and also try to remove any other obstacles which stand in the way of realising our object.

I am not aware of the technicalities of the subject I am speaking of, but as a layman I am in a position to say that this work is not being done with the speed and rapidity which it requires. It is learnt that almost half of the Department i.e. right from the overseers to the Chief Engineer himself, has been set aside for this job and that 30 to 40 per cent of these officers have not much to do. The high officers are said to be keeping themselves busy on towns and inspection work whereas all work is entrusted to the lower staff like the mechanics etc. This is not all. A good deal of corruption is rampant among the officers of the Irrigation Department and large quantities of cement and petrol are being sold in the black market. The high officers are said to be favouring their friends and relations by giving them contracts. I raised this question in the Question Hour but the Government tried to put me off by giving clever answers. I wish here to explain that doubtless the officers do not directly favour their men but they find out means of serving them. What they do is this, that they strike a bargain with each other. One officer helps the relatives of the other and the other does what he can for those of his friend. This state of affairs is very disconcerting and the Government should take steps to see that a stop is put to these uncalled for practices. The Government should also see that work is properly distributed among the lower staff, I mean the overseers etc. When more work is entrusted to some they have greater scope of exercising their dishonesty. I am sure that proper apportionment of work among overseers can eradicate corruption to a very large extent. In my opinion, if the Government pays proper attention to this matter, the evil can be eradicated to a large extent. Moreover, high officers should themselves devote their time and attention to this work. To illustrate my point, I shall read out an extract from what was stated in an assignment made regarding Bhakra Main Circle; No 11947 and 11948. It was written there—

'Except R. D. 6,21,000 and 12,00,000 orders for works should not be undertaken between R. D. 2,43,000 to 6,00,000'.

As a result of it, 2400 refugee labourers had to be turned out. It not only caused dislocation and hardship to these people but the work also suffered. If matters are decided after due deliberation, such things would not happen. I wish to refer to these things because I feel that it is in the interest of the State that work in connection with Bhakra scheme should be completed at the earliest.

Then, Sir, I wish to bring it to the notice of the Government that there is a wide-spread discontentment among overseers employed in this Department. They are being given the same treatment which is being meted to vernacular teachers. How can we expect better work from these technical officers, who have to do the main work by living in forests, unless we treat them at par with employees of other Government departments? There is a saying in Persian that a contented worker does many times more work than one who is discontented. Overseers have decided not to work for more than the scheduled time. They have also decided to wear

black badges whenever an officer of their department or some Minister pays a visit to the place where they are working. If somebody makes unreasonable demands, the Government would be justified in turning them down but I feel that the demands of these overseers are just and proper. I wish to draw pointed attention of the Government to it because they have made no improper demands. They complain that they were given step-motherly treatment at the time of revision of their grades in 1931 and then in 1946 as compared with those who were drawing the same pay in other Government departments. The Government should pay immediate attention to this matter. In my opinion, their demands in the matter of pay and other matters are just and legitimate. If the Government refuses to concede their just demands, it is very likely that they might adopt an attitude which would do harm to the public cause. In reply to some of my questions the Chief Minister replied that they were being incited by outsiders. The question of incitement does not arise. Usually it is hunger which provokes a person to do certain acts. Discontented persons always agitate for the redress of their wrongs. Did we not fight against the foreign rulers to cast away the yoke of slavery? I wish to place the case of overseers before the Government for its immediate consideration. The number of overseers employed on Bhakra scheme is about one half of the total establishment in that department. I wish that even if the Government did not treat some persons well, they should go on working faithfully but I find that in this world it is not usually the case. For this reason the Government should pay special attention to the case of overseers. The Government might raise the plea that it did not have sufficient funds for this purpose. In this connection I might add that money could be saved from several sources. In the pre-partitioned Punjab there were twenty Superintending Engineers in all. In this State, while we have only twenty-three per cent of the canals, the number of Superintending Engineers is fourteen. This has resulted in each one of them being in charge of one and a half or two and a half circles only. The Superintending Engineers of Ferozepore and Amritsar have only two and a half divisions each under them. It is not fair to increase expenditure on higher officers and to plead paucity of funds in the case of subordinate officials. If the hon. Chief Minister examines this matter sympathetically, he will find it possible to give relief to these subordinate officials.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, amendment moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 -

Sardar Partap Singh (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to submit it for the information of the hon. Chief Minister, who was Minister for Finance when it was decided to levy surcharge on water rate, that I might say some unpleasant things, but these would not be intended to hurt the feelings of any person. Strong words are likely to be used because this question affects the livelihood of eighty five percent of the population. I desired to place certain facts before the House with the help of which I could convince the hon. Members that it was absolutely unnecessary to raise the water rate by fifty percent. In order to disprove the contention of the Government and to show that its decision would cause great hardship to the zamindars I asked for some information from the Irrigation Department. I asked for some information about a week ago and for some more about two or three days back. The required information must be in their possession, but I am sorry that it has not been supplied to me. For this reason I cannot refute the Government's contention with that force with which I could do so with the necessary information. However, I hope

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

that the facts which I shall state in spite of my having not been supplied the required information, will prove the truth of my contention. When canals were constructed in the Punjab, of which the Upper Bari Doab was the first to be dug, an Act was passed. In the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill it was stated in line seven that it was not the intention of the Government to earn money from that canal. It was not a business proposition. The main object of the Government was to provide the people with water which had been given by nature, so that they might be saved from famines.

I beg to submit that no previous notice has been given with respect to the increase in the rates of *abiana*. Those who support the proposal say that the Government is justified in getting a share of the increased income of the agriculturists. In view of what I have said above I say that the Government has no right to think over the problem of *abiana* in a manner so as to make it a means of profit. As a matter of fact water is a gift from nature to man. It flows down from the mountains, passes over the plains and reaches the seas. Nature has given a free supply of water. Government has only changed its course. It has no right to increase the rates at its sweet-will without the consent of the people. I regret to note that the powers enjoyed by the Irrigation Department are far in excess of those enjoyed by any other department of Government. In this connection I wish to point out that even the Revenue Department makes assessments under certain rules and regulations after giving due notice of the same and telling the reasons therefor. Proper conditions are also explained before hand in an appropriate manner. On the other hand, in the Irrigation Department there used to be Englishmen at the head. Chief Engineer and Executive Engineers were all Englishmen. So they had kept large powers for themselves. In this matter they resorted to 'Nadarshahi' methods and they increased the rates without any consideration for the rules and consent of the people. The rules on this point were not clear. In the days of the British regime the principle upon which the Irrigation Department worked was that as much money may be extracted from the pockets of the zaminder as possible. In section 36 the following words were used regarding the fixation of rates of *abiana* : -

Rates to be charged for canal water supplied for the purposes of irrigation to the occupiers of land shall be determined by the rules to be made by the provincial Government and such occupiers as accept water shall pay for it accordingly.

In accordance with these rules the rates could be increased whenever the authorities liked. The rates were increased in 1905-6. In 1910-11 the rates were again increased. Similarly in 1916-17 also there was an increase in these rates. In the year 1923-24 there was a little decrease but immediately after that the rates were again increased. Then again the rates were increased by fifty per cent. A Resources and Retrenchment Committee was constituted. But I regret to note that it did not have representatives of those who may be said to have any connection with land and who know the difficulties of the agriculturists. The following Members constituted the Resources and Retrenchment Committee :—

1. Shri Behari Lal Chanana.
2. Shrimati Sita Devi.
3. Shri Dev Raj Sethi.
4. Sardar Ujjal Singh.
5. Seth Ganga Saran.
6. Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.
7. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.

I don't say that these persons who constituted the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have no honesty of purpose. My point is that such persons who are fully conversant with the difficulties of the agriculturists have not been represented on the Committee. The increase in the rates of abiana is quite unjustified. It has been suggested by those who have no soft corner for the agriculturists and who don't realise the difficulties under which the farmers have to work. The officers of the Irrigation Department are behaving like princes. The Chief Engineer, to tell the truth, should be considered a Governor and Executive Engineers as Deputy Commissioners because their behaviour and the powers given to them are of this nature. My submission is that they should not behave in a stiff manner towards the ordinary farmers. They should be, in fact, the servants of the people at large. That is their duty. They should not behave like princes. What I find is that they live in nice bungalows and the roads by the sides of the canals are reserved for their exclusive use. Whenever their cars have to pass water is sprinkled on these roads and their behaviour is such that the ordinary farmer is stricken by awe. The money that the poor farmers earn by the sweat of their brow is wasted on such luxuries. There is, in fact, no justification for the increase in water rates because the condition of the poor farmers is far from satisfactory. As a matter of fact a tax should be imposed on those whose income increases along with a decrease in their cost of living. It is a matter of regret that the authorities consider that the happiness of our kisans has increased. This appears to be a wrong reading of the situation. This sum of ten lakhs is being demanded in the name of an increase in the well-being of the people. It is a matter of regret that often facts are concealed from the public. This is an old habit with the officials of the Irrigation Department. Even before partition such tactics were resorted to. For instance, when Ram Chandra Committee was formed with the object of distributing the waters of upper Bari Doab among Upper, middle and lower territories, I was a Member of this Committee along with some other friends. We wished to go through some records as Members of the Committee. But the officer told us that they were not there at that time. On another occasion also after seven days they manoeuvred not to show us the records. Sardar Udham Singh, a real benefactor of the agriculturists, was also a Member of that Committee and he can bear me out in this matter. So far the officers have not told us from their records as to how much water was given by them. At that time there was no partition and so the records could not have been stolen by any one.

At present, I regret to note that although there is a conflict going on between Pakistan and India the water of Upper Bari Doab Canal instead of being given to Gurdaspur and Amritsar Districts wholly, is actually supplied to such Districts as Multan and Montgomery. We got 86 per cent of Upper Bari Doab Canal water of which we are now getting only 33 per cent. I am at a loss to understand why this is being done. As a matter of fact it is done at the cost of kisans in Punjab. There is no reason why this should continue to be so. Any excuses put forth for this unreasonable distribution are lame.

My submission is that there is no justification for the Government to enhance the water rates. They are out to charge increased rates for the supply of the same amount of water which was meant to irrigate a certain number of acres of land but has been utilised by the zamindar for irrigating more land so that he could earn a little more to enable himself to make both ends meet. Let me elucidate my point by giving an example. Supposing a zamindar has a unit of 10 acres of land. He receives water sufficient

[S. Partap Singh.]

only to properly irrigate 8 acres of land but seeing that he cannot eke out his living from 8 acres, he irrigates his whole unit so that if he gets no produce from the other two acres of land, he succeeds in getting fodder for his cattle. But so far as water rates are concerned, he is charged full for 10 acres, which is unfair to the zamindars. I may point out that if you just consult your Agriculture Department as to how many times sugar cane, paddy or wheat requires irrigation, you will find that the water supplied by the Irrigation Department is not sufficient for the proper growth of the crops. My zamindar brethren will bear me out that the land where wheat is growing, stands in need of irrigation five times at different intervals. But what actually happens is this. The zamindars get canal water only twice for wheat crops and then look to Providence for rains. If the rains come in time, they thank their stars; otherwise the crops are not likely to be bumper crops. But Irrigation Department is not concerned with this. It must charge the abiana in full. The matter does not end here. When the Irrigation authorities find that the zamindar has been able to irrigate 10 acres of land with the quantity of water which was sufficient for eight acres, they instead of increasing the supply of water, make another cut in it, and reduce it by 25 per cent. And yet the abiana goes strong; it must be charged at full rates. Sir, I feel that the zamindar would have been better off, if he had utilised the quantity of water supplied to him for irrigating the land for which it was meant and had not tried to irrigate more land with it. In that case the zamindar would have reaped rich crops. Now his crops are not up to the mark, but he is required to pay more in the form of water rates.

Now, Sir, the Government has increased the water rates by 50 per cent on the ground that the prices of agricultural commodities have gone high. It has ignored the fact that the cost of production of the zamindar, too has risen proportionately. It is a thousand pities that the calculations in favour of increased water rates have been made while sitting in cosy offices without taking into consideration the factor of cost of production. It is still a matter for more regret that Government would not think of reducing its expenditure, but would go on increasing the burden of the zamindars who are already groaning under the weight of several taxes. My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma rightly remarked that Government would create the post of another Chief Engineer and sub-divide circles to provide for him without caring that the increased expenditure would not prove beneficial to the poor tax-payer. But who cares for this. The helpless and dumb zamindar must be crushed under additional taxes. He is not being treated justly. We would have seen some justification in this enhancement of abiana if the fertility of the land would be increased. Mr. Speaker, if we take into consideration the comparative fertility of lands in West Punjab and our State, we find that in the former the yield of lands is greater by 40 per cent than that of lands in the latter. If the average yield of wheat per acre is nine maunds there, it is 6 maunds here.

Then, Sir, we are told that the abiana rates obtaining in the U. P. are higher and for that reason our zamindars should also pay more. But may I know whether the same conditions exist here as are prevailing there under which the zamindar of U. P. gets Rs. 400/- per acre for his sugar cane? Here conditions are not favourable to him for growing sugar cane and yet the poor zamindar must be saddled with enhanced abiana. In this connection I may point out that while serving on the Ram Chandra Committee, I asked for certain records which could indicate the percentage of lands under sugar cane in the U. P. and the Punjab at different times and similarly in respect of other commodities, but the same were not forthcoming because the officers

had not knowledge of what bearing these things had on the subject. Then my hon. Friends Sardar Udham Singh and Gurbachan Singh and Thakur Pancham Chand and myself were against the increase in abiana and we advocated the increase of water in the Upper Bari Doab Canal so that the zamindars might be provided with a greater supply of water. But what do we find in the Report of that Committee? The officers recommended that the water supply be reduced in the canals and abiana increased. I may tell the Government that as a result of increase in abiana, ruin stares the zamindar in his face, who has less than 15 acres of land in his possession. He will be adversely affected as it would become difficult for him to support himself. And this is not all. Discontentment will prevail among the zamindars and this will provide a fertile ground for the activities of the anti-social elements like the Communalists, Communists, Unionists etc. Peasantry must be contented if the Government wants to have a peaceful atmosphere in the State of Punjab. I would therefore appeal to the Government to reconsider its decision and not to burden the zamindar with additional tax.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up.

Sardar Ajit Singh : (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly, representing South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, the biggest item under the Irrigation Demand for which the House is being asked to vote the money is the Bhakra Dam Project. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh has thrown a flood of light on the history behind it. It is a patent fact that originally the intention for mooted this scheme was to provide the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts (Doaba) with the Doaba Bist Canal with a view to raising the water level of the wells there, which had been gradually going down to the great detriment of the zamindars. If you refer to the debates of the Legislative Council of the joint Punjab, you will find that since 1927 Government has been holding out assurances that the problem of raising the water level of wells in the Doaba, would be solved with the construction of Bhakra Dam. But what do we find here? The original proposal has been omitted and in its place it is proposed to send canals to the Rohtak, Hissar and Bikaner areas etc. This has damped the high hopes which we have been entertaining for the last two decades because on it depended the welfare of the Doaba zamindars. They will once more be deprived of that opportunity to improve their lot. This will have very bad repercussions on the economy of the Doaba. The zamindars there will be discontented and it is common knowledge that discontentment offers an easy breeding ground for anti-social elements. I, therefore sound a note of warning to the Government that if it wants to save the Doaba from the onslaught of Communists, Babar Akalis and other subversive organisations, it will have to take early steps to make arrangements for providing more water to the zaminders of the ilaqa so that they could better their condition and have two square meals a day. But as I have already stated, this difficulty can be overcome only if we raise the water level of the wells. This is possible if a canal namely the Bist Doab Canal is constructed and fed from the Bhakra Dam. It is a thousand pities that no mention of this canal has been made in the Budget provision for the Bhakra Dam. I fail to understand why Government has gone back on all those solemn assurances given by the previous Governments. I therefore, make no secret of the fact that the Doaba zamindar is not at all interested in the Bhakra Dam Project and he is not prepared to pay for it if he is not to receive that benefit upon which he has been banking for the improvement of his lot. If his field is not to thrive with the completion of this scheme, he will be very much disappointed. I am reminded of a couplet which aptly applies to the situation.

[S. Ajit Singh.]

(੧) ਜਿਸ ਖੇਤ ਮੇ ਦੈਹਕਾਨ ਕੋ ਹਾਸਲ ਨ ਹੋ ਰੋਜ਼ੀ,
ਉਸ ਖੇਤ ਕੇ ਹਰ ਖੋਸ਼ਾਏ ਗੰਦਮ ਕੋ ਜਲਾ ਦੇ ।

(੨) ਭਠ ਪਵੇ ਸੋਨਾ ਜੇ ਹੱਡਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਖਾਇ ।

(੧) जिस खेत से दैहकान को हासल न हो रोज़ी

उस खेत के हर खोशाए गन्दम को जला दो ।

(੨) भठ पवे सोना जो हडਾਂ नू खाए ।

I May, therefore, point out that if the greatest need of the Doaba is not fulfilled, the Communists will exploit the situation. I would impress upon the Government the desirability of making a provision for the construction of Bist Doab Canal to allay the anxiety of the Doaba zamindars. I want the hon. Chief Minister to assure us that such a provision will be made as I have suggested.

Now about the abiana. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh has already laid much stress on the point that no increases should be made in the water rates. It has been said that the argument of increasing the water rates in our State is quite reasonable as these rates had also been increased in U. P. and West Bengal. In this connection I would like to know from my hon. Friends holding this view as to how much water is being made available to zamindars in our State? Perhaps they are unmindful of the fact that now-a-days the zamindars of Amritsar are receiving 33% of the canal water as stated to by my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Member not to repeat what has already been said in this connection.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, what I wish to submit is that I will not object to this increase in the water rates provided 80 or 85% of the canal water is made available to the zamindars. Under the circumstances I am not going to support the proposal for increasing water rates in our State. It has also been said that the heavy increase in the expenditure on the Irrigation Department has necessitated the Government to enhance the water rates. I am really constrained to remark that the public money is so ruthlessly being wasted on this department that I am really ashamed of supporting the Demand now before the House. For example, a provision has been made in the Budget for the post of a Registrar. In my opinion it is no use making such a provision in the Budget. It will not be out of place to mention here that such a post used to exist in the P. W. D. Buildings and Roads Branch and as it was no longer required in that Branch it has been replaced by a Superintendent. I would therefore suggest that this post should be brought under reduction forthwith, as has been done in the P. W. D., B & R branch. We have also a Liaison Officer in this department, who is holding the rank of a Superintending Engineer. The duties assigned to this officer can easily be performed by an S. D. O. It is really no use paying Rs. 2000/- per month to the Liaison officer for the work which can easily and efficiently be done by an S.D.O. I am of the opinion that no officer above the rank of an Executive Engineer should be appointed as a Liaison Officer. Further I would like to point out that in the United Punjab there used to be only one circle namely the Western Jamna Canal. But now we find that it has been divided

into two circles. Government is also maintaining the Ferozepur circle. In the United Punjab it was but necessary to establish this circle as it had many headworks attached to it. Hussainiwala Head works, Sulemanki Head works, Eastern canal and Bikaner Canals formed one Division. In the absence of Sulemanki Head works and Hussainiwala Head works there seems to be no justification for maintaining this circle. One Executive Engineer at the most would be quite sufficient to control the work of the 4 or 5 sub-divisions. Our Government is wasting public money by maintaining this circle and the sooner it is abolished the better it would be in the interests of the public. So far as the construction of the Bhakra Dam is concerned, our Government has received about seven crores of rupees for completing its construction. In this connection I would like to request the Government not to lose any time in completing the construction of Bhakra Dam and making water available to zamindars for irrigation purposes. Two circles of Bhakra Dam are being maintained by the Government. One of these should be abolished. It is no use maintaining two circles when one of these can cope with the whole of the work. If this is done, I am sure people will not be overburdened and at the same time we will be able to make some saving. Would it not be in the interests of the State to abolish those circles which are superfluous and utilize the saving thus effected in some other direction in the best interest of the people?

Shrimati Dr Parkash Kaur : (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, It has been decided by the Government to increase water rates and thus add an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs to the State Exchequer. It means that the zamindars will have to pay one and a half times more of the water rates than they are paying at present. Hon Members know it full well that when the Government decided to secure loans for constructing canals, at that time it was decided that zamindars would be required to pay water rates and the amount thus obtained would be used to pay back the loan and the interest thereon. It was also decided that after paying back the loan money and the interest thereon, only that much amount would continue to be realized from the zamindars in the form of water rates which would be sufficient to cover the recurring expenses on the maintenance of the canals. It was not in the least decided by the Government at that time that canals would form the source of revenue to it. I think I am right when I say that the poor zamindars have already paid in the form of land revenue 28 times more than the loan money and the interest thereon which has been utilized on the construction of the canals. If the reins of our Government were in the hands of foreigners, then we would not have expected any good from them. Now that we have our own Government the zamindars and kisans have been hoping that it would make all-out efforts to make their sources of income cheaper and would also assess income tax on their such agricultural produce which they would spare after meeting their own demands. But on the contrary we find that the sources of the income of the poor zamindars and kisans are being made more costly. This is how the interests of the poor zamindars are being safeguarded at such a critical hour when our Government wants to make the Grow More Food campaign a success with a view to increase food production in the State.

It has been said that the water rate was originally imposed at a time when the prices of agricultural produce were very cheap. It has also been said that the zamindars who had grown very rich on account of increase in the prices of their produce, should now naturally be in a position to pay the enhanced water rates. In this connection I would like to quote a few lines from a booklet on Income Tax on Land Revenue by Professor Brij Narain M.A. He says :—

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]

15 एकड़ नहरो ज़मीन दी आमदनी दो फसलां मिला के 439 रु० निकल दी है। अते खर्च 830 रु०। साल बिच ज़मींदार नू 382 रु० दा घाटा रहया आमदनी अते खर्च 15 एकड़ दा इस वास्ते दसिया है क्योंकि इक हल बंध तों बंध 15 एकड़ नहरी ज़मीन बाह सकदा है।

खालस मुनाफा तां है ही नहीं, पर मामले तों छुटकारा नयों होंदा।

१५ ऐकड़ नहरी ज़मीन दी आमदनी दो फसलां मिलाके ४३९ रुपै ठिकलदी है अते खर्च ८३० रुपै साल बिच ज़मींदार नू ३८२ रुपै घाटा रिहा।

आमदनी अते खर्च १५ ऐकड़ दा इस वास्ते दसिया है किਉ-कि ਇਕ ਹਲ ਵਧ ਤੋਂ ਵਧ ੧੫ ਏਕੜ ਨਹਿਰੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਵਾਹ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।.....

ਖਾਲਸ ਮੁਨਾਫਾ ਤਾਂ ਹੈ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ। ਪਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਛੁਟਕਾਰਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ।

When it is said that the prices of the agricultural produce have increased then this fact should also not be ignored that the expenditure of the zamindars has also increased. Hon. Members know it full well that with the increase in the prices of agricultural produce, we also find increase in the expenditure of the zamindars and the kisans. I am of the opinion that any increase in the water rates would result in grave injustice to those poor kisans who own less than 15 acres of land. Even those zamindars who own 15 acres of land would be put to a lot of inconvenience. It will not be out of place to mention here that the poor kisans and zamindars would be hard hit in case they are asked to pay enhanced water rates. In this connection I would like to quote a few lines from a Magazine "Who Contributes to the Exchequer". On page 5 of this magazine it is given :—

The main cultivating proprietors of land in the rural areas may be estimated to-day at 2% of the rural population....."

This shows that the small holder would be the main sufferers. Sir, I consider that the increase in the canal water rate will mostly affect such kisans who have tiny plots or in other words uneconomical holdings. They would not be able to bear the burden of this increased abiana. The Government may claim justification in increasing the water rate on the ground that the agriculturists' income has now increased consequent upon the rise in the prices of agricultural produce. I would point out to the Government that during the last Great War the prices of wheat and other agricultural produce had registered an increase but the British Government did not think it fit to take such a decision which would operate so harshly on the interests of poor zamindars. But our national Government has not shown any hesitation in burdening the poor zamindars, presumably because they are tongue-tied. The urban element and particularly the trading class is more and more vocal in regard to their own taxes. If their pockets were touched they would have cried hoarse and asked the press and other organizations to plead their cause. They would have created a difficult situation for the Government. But the poor zamindar who already contributes much to the Government exchequer is being burdened with more and more taxes. The total revenue receipt and the subvention received from the Central Government during the year aggregate to 16 crores of rupees

of which the contribution by the ruralites towards land revenue and other taxes amounts to 9 crores of rupees. If the Government sticks to its decision to impose this additional burden upon the zamindars, their income would naturally dwindle to the discomfiture of the whole family. I submit, Sir, that the Government says that this abiana is not a tax but in fact the actual price of the water supplied to the peasants. This creates a very bad impression about the Government in the minds of the people who argue that there should be some justification for the Government to tax the increase, if any, in the income of its subjects but ours is most probably the first Government which wants that the income of the people should go down because it makes dearer and dearer the means of production of the growers of food and other essential articles, for example by increasing the canal water rates. If the Government wants to refute this argument, it should try to remove this impression and do justice to the poor zamindars instead of defending its policy by carefully measured words to suit the occasion. The Government has always been influenced by the consideration to exempt from the levy of income tax certain portion of income with which a person has to provide for all the necessities of life. I think it would be fair on the part of the Government to be guided by the same principle in the matter of agricultural income. It should also fix an exemption limit for the assessment of land revenue to alleviate to some extent the burden of zamindars. The Government should as well keep in view that the agricultural produce is subject to the law of diminishing returns and the industrial output to an increasing return. In face of this hard fact, I fail to understand how the Government considers it reasonable to enhance the canal water rate. Government's argument is based more or less on its own self interest that it is faced with the need for increased revenues. I would like to inform the House that from the chart that has been published by the Government, it appears that a provision for 28 lakhs of rupees has been made in the budget of the current year for constructing a canal. I would call this short term programme that is being carried by the Irrigation Department as a misdirection of public finance when hard cash is being asked for it. If big projects like Bhakra and Nangal can be constructed on borrowed money, why can't these schemes be dealt with in the same way? Had 28 lacs of rupees been borrowed for these we would have paid it through our old water rates just as we have paid 28 times more than the original loan and interest for the old canals. If the Government had taken a loan of 28 lacs of rupees, then there would be only a question of 22 lacs of rupees to make up the amount of revenue which will accrue to the Government by the increased abiana. I am of the opinion that if the Government effects real economies in Governmental expenditure and do not indulge in "squander mania" it would be possible to make a saving of 22 lacs of rupees. If the Government takes better care of money and exercise care and prudence to avoid all possible waste, our financial position can easily improve. If any Government officers are found guilty of wasting public money, they should be severely dealt with. I remember that sometime back a contract worth 1½ lakhs of rupees was given in the Civil Supplies Department in connection with the printing of forms. Tenders were invited in four parts. The Government officers instead of accepting the lowest tender of Rs. 39,000 accepted the highest tender of 60,000 and thus mis-spent the sum of Rs. 21,000. Had the original contract of 1½ lacs held good it would have meant a loss of 86,000 rupees to the Province. Similarly, procurement syndicates have been set up by the Civil Supplies Department and a large number of Inspectors employed to supervise this scheme. I would suggest that by doing away with the syndicates and buying through the inspectors, who have to be present at the spot in any case, the Government could save the

[Shrimati Dr Parkash Kaur.]

exorbitant commissions going to the syndicates and by reducing the number of surplus inspectors, the Government can considerably reduce the expenditure. When I had a talk with the hon. Chief Minister on this subject of increased abiana, he replied that this was the only source they could tap for raising additional revenue. I am of the opinion that the policy of tax relief to urbanites in case of income tax without corresponding relief to the ruralites in the assessment of land revenue is open to serious objection from the stand point of equity and fairness. The Resources and Retrenchment Committee that has now been set up by the Government to find out alternate sources of revenue in order to do away with this increased water rate is a mere eye-wash. I wonder that our own national Government instead of promoting the welfare and prosperity of the largest section of the population who are occupied in peaceful occupation of agriculture, should have thought it fit to burden them with increased abiana and this is being done by the implied consent of the hon. Members, a large majority of whom happen to be sons of the soil themselves. In this connection I am reminded of a couplet and I can do nothing more than to recite it :—

दिल के फफोले जल उठे सीने के दाग से

इस घर को आग लग गई घर के चिराग से ।

ਦਿਲ ਕੇ ਫਫੋਲੇ ਜਲ ਉਠੇ ਸੀਨੇ ਕੇ ਦਾਗ ਸੇ

ਇਸ ਘਰ ਕੋ ਆਗ ਲਗ ਗਈ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਚਿਰਾਗ ਸੇ ।

Shri Virendra : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division, Multan, General, Rural) (*Hialustani*) ; Sir, the problem of abiana is in fact not so complicated as it has been made out. It appears as if it has been so made because of the conflict of two interests, namely, the interests of the zamindar and the interests of the State. (*Some hon. Members :* It is a conflict of interest of the ruralites and the urbanites). Sir, the very day this session commenced, some of my hon. Friends posed to be taking up cudgels on behalf of the rural people. As a matter of fact they are not concerned about them. They do so only to safeguard their own interests. Otherwise they have nothing in common with them as they luxuriously live in cities where they may be practising law or doing some other business. They become ruralites if and when they stand to gain by being so. I wish to inform these Friends that so far as the ruralites or the kisans are concerned, we are prepared to give them whatever help we can. But one thing should be clearly understood and it is that we cannot afford to ignore the interests of the State for anything or anybody. Whatever we do must be calculated to bring about prosperity in our State.

Sir, serious objection is being taken to the increase in water rate. It is said that this increase is imposing an incalculable burden on the poor zamindar and that the Canal Department is not supposed to be a commercial Department. In this connection I invite the attention of the House to the fact that much water has flown under the bridges ever since the water rate was fixed. It will be recalled that the present rate was fixed in 1933 or 1934 when wheat was sold at rupees two or rupees two and a half per maund. Things have changed beyond all measure. To-day wheat is being sold between rupees fourteen and rupees twenty a maund. When the income of my agriculturist friends has increased so much, I see no reason why they should complain of any increase in the water-rate. It will not be here out of place to say that according to the agricultural prosperity index prepared by the

Government, the income of agriculturists has gone up by three and a half times.

Then Sir, it has been remarked that the canal department is not a commercial department. I agree it is not a commercial department. But is it not a fact that all income from irrigation in the form of land revenue etc. is spent for the good of the rural areas and that the present expenditure on irrigation is many times more than that which was incurred during the pre-war days. My hon. Friends will recall that before the war a labourer was given only eight annas a day but now he charges nothing short of rupees two per day. A mason who got rupees one and annas eight gets rupees five a day, a patwari is paid rupees seventy a month instead of rupees seventeen, a 'beldar' rupees forty a month in place of rupees twelve and so on and so forth. These figures clearly show that the present expenditure on irrigation is many times more than that incurred before the war.

Sardar Partap Singh : Has the salary of the Chief Engineer also gone up ?

Shri Virendra : I shall come to this point later but I may say that we may have to decrease his salary also. Anyhow what I want to bring out is this that expenditure on irrigation has increased. In 1933-34, the running expenses on this department were Rs. 38,41,000 whereas in 1945-46 they shot-up to Rs. 65,56,000.

Sir, time and again it has been said that a great burden of taxes is being put on the ruralites and that the urbanites are having an easy time. I would like to falsify this impression by the following figures. In the Budget for 1948-49 the estimated revenue was Rs. 12,71,99,000 out of which land revenue amounted only to Rs. 1,61,00,000. This means that out of twelve crores of rupees only one crore is contributed by the agriculturists and the huge remainder is made up by the urbanites.

Further it was remarked that it was a department of the Governors and the princes. I ask, has not abiana been increased in other States e.g. West Punjab, Pepsu and U. P. ? There is no agitation in those States. Sir, a good deal of mud has been thrown on the urban people saying that huge profits are made by them and that they are not asked to pay the taxes. May I ask my Friends as to who sold American cotton at the rate of Rs. 25/- a maund which was grown in 47,000 acres of Sirhind canal area in 1948 and who made a profit of Rs. 2,34,00,000 by growing 7,33,000 maunds of American cotton in the same area in 1949. Other figures also reveal the same state of affairs. By growing American and Desi cotton with the water of Sirhind Canal alone, a profit of three crores and seventy three lakhs was made. On the other hand without giving any figure or proof it is said the ruralites are being unduly burdened and ruined.

Sardar Partap Singh : Government department is speaking through the hon. Member.

Shri Virendra : It is said that a Government department is speaking through me. I admit, Sir, that I always speak after thoroughly studying the subject. This increase was not decided upon by an urbanite or a bania. Two Members of the cabinet which arrived at this decision were agriculturists. The Minister-in-charge was an agriculturist himself.

Sardar Swaran Singh : That was bania ridden Government.

Shri Virendra : It is said that we people are opposed to the agriculturists and ruralites. May I know if my hon Friends Chaudhri Lahri Singh and Sardar Joginder Singh Mann are also antagonists of the interests of agriculturists ? Several things have been said against the urbanites and they have been charged with doing one thing or another. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh said that the Government was doing great injustice to the ruralites and was increasing their difficulties. May I enquire from him if the hon. Member sitting by his side did so ? With due respect I beg to submit that we have great sympathy with the kisans of the State and are prepared to help them to the utmost. I have staunch belief in the fact that the well-being of this State depends on the well-being of the kisans. I wish to assure them that we wish to give them maximum help. We shall be glad if the Government finds it possible to do away with the surcharge on water rate. I shall, however, request the hon. Members of this House not to ignore the interests of the State. It is not proper to exploit kisans for gaining political ends. They should not be made a tool in the game of power politics. Such a step would be fraught with serious dangers and is bound to harm the interests of the country.

Sardar Kehr Singh. (Jagraon, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir I wish to place only two points before the hon. Members in connection with the subject under discussion. Some of my hon. Friends admitted that the well-being of the State depended on the well-being of the kisans but still they supported further taxation on them. I am unable to understand how these things could go together. If they really believed in what they said why were they supporting enhancement of water rate ? We are new to the art of administration and will learn things with the passage of time. In America I found that it was not considered proper to levy taxes on those who had to work hard. Poor kisans have to stand in cold water in the months of Poh and Magh. When we told people that the country had become free they replied that they would believe it when they were supplied water during day-time. So long as they got it only at night they did not regard themselves as having become free. If you really wish to keep the kisans contented, they should not be further taxed. If more taxes are imposed, the situation might take an undesirable turn. In America the people say that only those persons should be taxed who earned money without much discomfort. There are no black marketers in that country. Another thing which I noticed in America was that whenever a kisan went to some Government office, the officers working there stood up and attended to him promptly because it was realised that he has come from the farm and should return there without delay. An American peasant can be distinguished from his hat. In our country, the treatment meted out to the kisans is just the reverse of it. Here, if a canal officer promised to reach a certain place on the particular day, he did not care to turn up till the second or third day after that and the kisans had to keep waiting for him. They were given similar treatment in the offices of the Tehsildar or the Police.

Another thing which I have noted is this that all the officials of the Canal department were old people. I do not mean disrespect to any person when I say so but I have not been able to know the cause of it. They were comfort loving and did not take the trouble of attending to the needs of kisans. As my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh said, there would be no objection to increase of water rate, if we could get as much water as we required. We grow food and other crops for the benefit of the urbanites who admit that they are

dependent on the kisans. We get very small quantity of water as compared with our needs. In America things are quite different. The canal authorities in that country enquired from the peasants as to how much water they required, what was the width of their water-outlets and for how many hours the water should be supplied to them. In our country there is acute shortage of water for irrigation. Nothing useful has been achieved so far. There is short supply of water for the purposes of irrigation. We sit here and discuss matters. But the good of the State does not lie in mere discussions. Something solid should be done. It is my conviction that the production of food grains can increase if the water supply is made available at cheaper rates. No other method will bear fruit. It is only if we encourage the farmers that they will try to produce more. But have the officers ever uttered words of encouragement to the farmers? I don't think they have ever done so. As a matter of fact we are engrossed in other matters. In Punjab we have our own problems to solve. The poor are relegated to the background. In the conflict of various interests nobody pays any attention to the poor people. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the effect of the action which our Government took sometime back in connection with the so-called iron and steel scandal. Some arrests were made and cases were instituted. I don't say that the action which the Government took was justified or unjustified. I am neither attacking the Government nor defending it. What I am concerned with here is to point out that the action taken by the Government resulted in untold misery and loss to the poor farmers. Iron went underground and the price of ploughs which previously was rupees thirteen only, rose up to rupees twenty one. During this period farmers bought about rupees one lakh worth of ploughs. Now hon. Members can well imagine what loss the agriculturists had to incur when they were compelled to pay rupees seven more for each plough. Sir, all this is due to the fact that struggle for leadership and struggle for Ministership has its bad effect upon the interests of the poor people at large. As a matter of fact these rivalries are worse than black-market and bribery. In many respects the condition of our State will show signs of improvement only when their will be three Ministers in all.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Be relevant and leave that at this stage.

Sardar Kehr Singh : Sir, at present our main difficulty is the shortage of water and we must see that the agriculturists are given all possible facilities in this matter. Moreover, we have another party watching our activities. That party is always ready to pick holes in whatever the Congress may do. It is loud in proclaiming that the Congress has failed to fulfil its pledges to the masses. I wish to say a word to those who control the destiny of our State. It is this. If the Government can do some useful work, nobody will grudge paying more taxes and revenues. But if nothing useful is attained the people will feel dissatisfied. As matters stand, we notice that so far the people living in rural areas have been provided with very little amenities of life, while the urban population has been comparatively well cared for. In villages we have very few schools and good roads. So I would appeal to the Government to pay more attention to the needs of the village people.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar (Non Union Labour) (Hindi) : Sir, at the outset I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that very little time has been allotted to such an important affair as the budget discussions. We are, in fact, going on with the work in a rather hasty manner. In this connection Sir, my submission is that we are not

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laying down a happy tradition for the future. To-day we find that the opposition party is in a hopeless minority. What will be our state of affairs when the opposition gains strength? The Unionist Government was doing likewise. Here, Sir I wish to dwell on three matters.

In the first place, hon. Members are aware that the condition of the labourers working on Bhakra and Nangal projects is far from satisfactory. In spite of various representations made to the Government on behalf of the labourers it is a matter of regret that no protection has been made available to them under the Factories Act and other Acts like the payment of Wages Act, Industrial Employment Act, Minimum Wage Act etc. enacted in order to adequately protect labour from merciless exploitation. They have not been granted any facilities which they should get. The Government is duly authorised to grant such concessions by means of a liberal notification of law and rules thereunder. But nothing is being done in this direction. The provision of electricity and water is not adequate in the quarters provided to the workers at these head works. In this connection a resolution is intended to be moved but I cannot say whether we will be allowed the opportunity by the Leader of the House to do so in this session. Anyhow the number of the labourers is quite high and it is in the fitness of things that the provisions of Factory Act and other Acts should be made applicable to them so that they are given the protection by inclusion of the Fair Wage Clause and in the Government contracts, just as the Central Government P. W. D. has done, and provided with so many other facilities. The labourers of Central workshop Amritsar have also certain long-standing grievances in the matter of holidays, fixation of grades etc. In the last bye-election, they gave vent to their feelings and we had to try to meet their point of view. It is a matter of regret that nothing has been done to implement the promises made to the workers. They want more holidays, better facilities properly fixed grades, standardized wages, proper rules of recruitment, security of service, regularity in increments etc. and we should try to see their point of view. The treatment of the Government of their labour should be a model for others, but what we see is, the workers here are worse off as compared with the private employees.

Next I come to the question of *abiana*. There are three things to be noted in this connection. In the first place Shri Virendra has stated that we should look to the interests of the state. In my opinion such remarks need not be made. Such remarks are a reflection upon the hon. Members. They imply that only Shri Virendra looks to the interests of the State. In a democratic set-up there are differences of outlook and I think such reflections should be avoided as far as possible. I for one consider that the increase in the rates of *abiana* is dangerous even from purely economic point of view, because the burden of this increase is intimately connected with the prices of commodities of daily use by the agriculturists. It has been stated that on account of the opening of Sirhind Canal, the agriculturists have earned a lot of income and so they can easily spare some for the revenues of the State. In my opinion such stray and isolated instances lead us to wrong conclusions. Of course, one can prove that the income of the agriculturists has increased during the recent years due to rise in the prices of the agricultural commodities. But a tax is not imposed on mere gross income of the tax payer. It is imposed according to the capacity of the person to pay. So long as we do not also keep in view the cost of production and the cost of living of the persons to be taxed, our whole tax structure would be based on

wrong assumptions, and will seriously conflict with the interests of the people, and therefore ultimately of the State. In order to decide whether we tax a certain section of the population or not and if we are to tax them, then how much tax should we impose, we will have to consider two things—the income and the cost of production including the cost of living of the producer. It is a fundamental principle of taxation that the tax is always imposed on the net income, or the real income, which is calculated after the deduction of the real costs from the gross income. If the income of a class of people is such that it leaves only a living wage or hardly even that, if proper calculations are made, then the taxable capacity of that class is nil. In that case the tax would be on their subsistence, which no one can justify. I, therefore, feel that the cultivators should not be burdened with enhanced taxes. Now, Sir, if you just take into consideration the price indices, you will see that the prices of food-grains have not risen in the same proportion as the prices of those commodities which the zamindar is required to purchase to meet his requirements. For instance he has to buy agricultural implements and other industrial commodities the prices of which have shot up out of all proportion. Let me quote figures which speak for themselves. The index of prices of foodgrains in April 1941 stood at 322 and in December 1949 it rose to the figure of 360. Then we come to the other side of the picture. The prices of commodities, which the cultivators stand in need of indicate phenomenal rise. In April 1941 the index stood at 262 but it went up to 401 in April 1949 and stood at 479 in December, 1949. This clearly shows that the prices which the cultivators had to pay for their necessities of life etc. far exceeded the prices which they received for their foodgrains. Now it is a well known fact that when the income rises due to rise in prices there is a corresponding increase in the cost of production too. So if the income of the cultivator has been rising, his cost of production, too, has gone up several times. But when his income would decrease, the cost of production would not fall proportionately and simultaneously. The fall in prices of their produce would be greater than the fall in the cost of production. I would therefore impress upon the Government that it should not ignore this aspect of the matter while deciding to increase the burden of taxes on the cultivators.

Now we have two categories of cultivators in the Punjab. The number of the actual tillers of the land far exceeds the number of big zamindars who can be counted on fingers. If we analyse the income of the big zamindars we find that if abiana is increased by 50 percent in their case, they will be able to pay it. But so far as the small cultivators who constitute the largest number are concerned, it is very difficult for them to make both ends meet. They will be hit hard by the increase in water rates. In this connection I would like to quote from Mr. Darling, the author of the 'Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt'.

"It is commonly assumed that high prices are good for the cultivator..... But it is only correct as long as he has more to sell than to buy. If it is other way round, he benefits no more than any other class of consumer. In the Punjab a man with twenty to thirty acres generally has more to sell than to buy, and if his land is secured against draught by canal or well, high prices are an obvious advantage. But where in some district a man is lucky, if he has half a dozen acres to cultivate, they are as likely as not an evil, but it is only in good years that he has much to sell and in bad years he may have to buy the very grain that he eats."

You will see, Sir, that it is not necessary that the rise in prices should always prove beneficial to the poor peasant or a self cultivating small holder,

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It will also be seen that the benefit of rise in prices will accrue only to those zamindars who possess more than thirty acres of land. But here in the Punjab the peasant proprietor does not ordinarily own this much land. Then Mr. Darling quotes a Deputy Commissioner, who said in 1879 as below.

Generally, the produce raised on a holding is not more than sufficient to support the family of the cultivator. It is only the larger owners,..... who have a surplus for sale.

Forty years later the same tendency was noticed by another Deputy Commissioner of the same district, who *inter alia*, said,

The larger land owners have profited a lot by the rise in the prices..... the small owners have suffered; and the reason is, that the latter have little to sell and as much as ever to buy... In certain villages of very small holders high prices have been 'more a curse than a blessing' while in bad years they seldom have enough to eat.

Mr. Darling says elsewhere as follows :—

For the smallest holder high prices are probably an evil, as for the large holders, they are clearly a blessing. For a holder who cultivates ten or twelve acres it is a question whether they are good or bad.

These excerpts clearly indicate that Government is labouring under a wrong impression that higher prices have enriched the agriculturists as a whole. As I have already stated, a few big zamindars must have been benefited. As you are aware, Sir, this State mainly consists of small holders. The rise in prices have not benefited them to that extent which the Government thinks.

Then, it has been stated by some of my hon. Friends that if the prices of commodities have soared high, the wages of the labouring classes too have gone high. For instance it is said that a clerk or a factory labourer drawing 30 rupees per mensem is now getting Rs. 75/- or so per mensem. My hon. Friends forget that the prices are rising with such rapidity that the real wages are no longer keeping pace with them. There is a lag between the prices and the real wages. As you are aware, Sir, in villages transactions generally take place in kind rather than in cash. So if we keep this fact in view, it will be seen that the rise in wages in terms of cash may look very great but in terms of kind it is not commensurate with the wages. It is obvious that the argument that the rising prices have proved beneficial to the labouring classes as well as the zamindars, does not hold water. I therefore maintain that the increase in abiana is not justified. Now the formula on which abiana has been based is $R/2 + I + M$, where R stands for remainder after deducting the Barani from Nehri income; I for interest and M for maintenance charges. That is when a barani land is irrigated by canal water, abiana is charged. It is calculated on the basis of the above formula. It includes interest and the maintenance charges. Government has a right to levy a charge but to the extent of the interest and the maintenance charges. I challenge the Government that it can enhance the water rates. It was levied by the Britishers. It is long over due that it should be overhauled now. Government says that it is running canal irrigation on commercial basis. I may say that the expenditure of 42 per cent of the irrigation revenue as working expenses of the Irrigation Department shows that the department is not really proving a paying proposition. Any businessman would tell that a commercial concern which consumes a substantial amount as working expenditure, cannot be regarded as a profitable proposition. Government should set its house in order before demanding an enhancement in the abiana. Then the procurement policy of the Government is surely against the interests of the kisans. The fixation of the prices of the agricultural commodities is done to the detriment of the interests of the growers. In this connection

I would like to quote from a pamphlet called the 'Economic Review' brought out by the all India Congress Office.

There exists today no scientific basis for the fixation of agricultural prices and since these have always been fixed at a rate lower than what may be called just, agriculture has always been a losing concern. No economy but uneconomy alone can prevail in a country where agriculture is run at a loss. And is there any business that cannot be made unprofitable? If the purchasers start buying cars worth rupees ten thousand at only rupees five thousand, can the car industry remain a profitable business? But this is actually the state of affairs with regard to agriculture in our country. There is much that is arbitrary so far as the fixation of prices is concerned. There is no one law regarding the same. The price may be fixed either by the seller or the buyer. But when it comes to fixing the prices of agricultural produce, the buyers in the cities decide it and again the prices of finished products are fixed by the sellers in the cities. That means that not the seller and the buyer, but the city folks fix the prices in either case and the villages have to quietly acquiesce, and are exploited either way. This injustice must be put an end to. The prices of agricultural products must be fixed on a scientific basis. That basis can only be able to provide the means of living to the cultivators and their hired labourers. This basis has already been accepted for the products of the mills. We demand the same for agricultural products.

We should not forget the wages of the cultivators. In this connection I would like to quote many writers in support of my contention but as the time at my disposal is very short, I will not be able to say anything more than what I have already said so far as this matter is concerned.

Further it has been argued that there was no other alternative left to the Government except raising the water rates with a view to balancing the Budget. On the one hand it has been maintained by the Government that the economy of our State has been displaced and shattered. Our State is bleeding and it is reduced to a skeleton. It is just like an anaemic patient who goes on sinking for want of blood. Just as a surgeon finds it useless to apply his lancet to such a patient similarly it is useless and at the same time dangerous if we apply any lancet to our skeleton State. Where and how to apply the lancet is a big problem even if it is felt necessary to do so. Before taking any such step it has got to be seen whether the application of this lancet will result in any good to the patient. We have lost excellent lands in Pakistan. Our agriculture is in the weakest state at present, and the majority of people belonging to the agricultural profession feel very much depressed. Let us not overburden them. It is not necessary that the budget should always be a balanced or a surplus one. As the time at my disposal is very short, I do not think I will be able to read out the opinion of Mr. Hicks, an eminent economist of United Kingdom. I will, however, place before the House his views in my own words. He is of the opinion that it is an old and conservative practice to prepare budgets in such a way so as to show some surplus in them. Such things, he says, were done in olden times when Governments of those days were not indulging in any trade or business. He is also of the opinion that now-a-days the budgets of the Governments which indulge in various trades and undertake all sorts of commercial enterprises are only matters of accounting simply to show that the deficit of current year can be made up in the next year.

The hon. Chief Minister has in the course of his speech pointed out that a sum of 2½ crores came to our share under the Deshmukh Award. I am really constrained to remark that grave injustice has been done to our State by

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giving us a very meagre amount. Our State has been given only 81% of the total income tax paid by us while other States have been given as much as 700% of the total amount under this Award. It is, therefore, crystal clear from this that grave injustice has been done to us by giving us only 81% under this Award. The Punjab will of course remain actually a deficit province for some years to come, until its agriculture and industries are fully settled. The centre must in the meanwhile take the responsibility for making up the deficit, just as it had been doing in the case of Sindh, Orissa and N. W. F. P. after these provinces were separated during the British regime.

Sant Narindar Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, hon. Members know it full well that all of us here are responsible for running the administration of our State. We have been elected by our people to safeguard their interests. It is, therefore, our bounden duty to devise ways and means to improve their lot. It has been decided by the Government to increase the water rates. My hon. Friends have in the course of their speeches urged upon the Government not to take such step as it is bound to be detrimental to the interests of the zamindars in general and the poor kisans in particular. I would like to point out that the zamindars and kisans from West Punjab who have already been uprooted would be grieved to a great extent if and when enhanced water rates are charged from them. Most of these zamindars and kisans have settled in the border districts and the imposition of these enhanced rates will result in grave injustice to them. Now-a-days public meetings are being held in the rural areas in which fiery speeches are delivered against the Congress organisation and the Congress Government. People living in the rural areas who constitute about 85% of the total population of the State want that their lot should be improved. If instead of any substantial good being done to them they are over-burdened with increased water-rates, I am afraid they will get dissatisfied with the day-to-day administration of the Government and will thus make all-out efforts to bring disrepute to it. It is really high time that our Government realized the pressing need of the hour. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government in the name of the Punjab and in the name of law and order not to increase the water rates. If this is not done, I am afraid it will have very bad repercussions.

I would like to say a few words about the Irrigation Department. My hon. Friends know it full well that I am an occupancy tenant. I have experienced that the officials of this department while away most of their time in leisure and do not take any pains whatsoever in the work entrusted to them. It will not be out of place to mention here that in the rural area the officers do not even listen to what the M.L.A.'s say. To me it appears that they are afraid lest M. L. A.'s should ask question in the House about them. Since I also belong to the same district of my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh who asks volleys of questions on the floor of the House, I have to suffer for this action on his part as a result of which officials do not give a patient hearing to what I say. So far as the officers are concerned, they should realize that we who come from the rural areas have learnt and unlearnt much. Like the true Congress-men we are also using "Khaddar". The officials of the department whose duty it is to supply water to the zamindars enjoy certain advantages while discharg-

ing their duties. During the hot summer, cold water is always available in their Kothis. Water is always made available to them for watering their well maintained gardens. Further I would like to point out that patwaris and particularly the Congress-minded patwaris do not resort to any bribes. They refuse to accept even a little quantity of produce which we used to give them previously. They say that under the changed conditions when they had their own Government it was unfair to accept anything whatsoever.

Lastly I would like to warn the Government not to increase the water rates. If this is not done, it will have very bad repercussions for which both the Government and the hon. Members of the House would be held responsible by the people of our State.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it has been said that the good of our State as a whole should be our watchword and that we should all stand for the interest of our State as a whole. I quite agree with the view expressed by some of my hon. friends. Being the son of the soil I wish to make it clear that we are rooted to the soil and are not birds of the weather. We have, therefore, the greatest regard for the interests of our State. But I really fail to understand as to why Government has thought it fit to increase the water rates only. It will not be out of place to mention here that in spite of the deficit of Rs. 1,70,000 in connection with the supply of electric energy, our Government did not dare to increase the electricity rates. My hon. friends would be surprised to know that the private companies continue to be charged at the rate of annas -/6/- per unit. I really fail to understand as to why electricity rates have not been increased when there is every justification on the part of the Government to do so. On the other hand we find that water rates have been increased without any rhyme or reason. As a matter of fact I will not object to the decision of the Government in so far as the enhanced water rates are concerned, if after tackling all the resources it is still faced with some deficit. There seems to be no reason why all the resources have not been tackled. It really does not behove our Government to increase the water rates without tackling all other resources. It seems that while making this decision it has not realized as to what would be the repercussions of this increase in the water rates. Sir, unfortunately there were 3 Jat Ministers and 4 non-Jat Ministers in the last Cabinet. They overlooked the adverse effect of such a decision on the poor Zamindars. It was that cabinet which increased the number of Engineers from 2 to 3. This decision to raise by 50 per cent the abiana rates was made by the same Cabinet. They perhaps could little anticipate that this increased abiana would operate so harshly upon the rural interests. It is strange that this Government has the boldness to say that it is striving to promote the welfare and prosperity of the rural population. This veiled expression of sympathy is only an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of villagers and is only but a lip homage to them. I am reminded of a Punjabi couplet which says :—

ਮਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਫਫੇ ਕੁਟਨ ਦਾ ਪਿਆਰ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ।

ਮਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਫਫੇ ਕੁਟਨ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਯਾਦਾ ।

I know that agriculturists are already face to face with difficulties and they can hardly make both ends meet. Their expenses far exceed their income and they are passing through serious difficulties on account of high cost of living these days. When this is the condition, the Government should

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ponder seriously whether it would be possible for the zamindars to bear this increased burden. I think the officials who have advised the Government to increase the present water rate have given a wrong advice to the Government. The Government could otherwise effect saving as there is considerable scope in the reduction of expenditure in the Irrigation Department. The Finance Secretary of the Government has also laid great stress on exercising the utmost economy in Governmental expenditure. On page 45 of the Memorandum of Budget, he says :—

Its expenditure appears to be capable of reduction, without much loss of the general efficiency of our administrative set-up. That, however, will only be possible if each Government servant (from those in the highest ranks of officers to the lowest class IV employee) could develop a financial conscience, a financial conscience that would endeavour to save by all possible means on the one hand and raise all possible revenue on the other. Such a financial conscience would shudder at the thought of any waste of public funds, and regard such a waste as the worst social sin against the Punjabis of India.

It is generally observed that funds are being squandered in the Irrigation Department and money is flowing like water. According to the Finance Secretary's views any waste of public funds is a social sin which has its repercussions on the Provincial economy as a whole. But after the partition we find that there are three Engineers instead of two during the pre-partition days. Proposal of giving a contract of Bhakra Dam is also under the consideration of the Government. There was a preponderance of Hindus and Sikhs in the Irrigation Department and though very few canals have come to our share after the partition yet we have got plenty of officers. Every effort is being made to absorb them in the administration of the State. There is not a little doubt that these officers are all capable and efficient, but when there is a keen demand for such officers in the States, I do not know why these officers are not being spared by our Government. I fail to appreciate the logic of keeping officers in plethoric plenty in our State and burdening the Government exchequer, when they can easily be absorbed in the various States. Now I would say something about the Bhakra Nangal Project. It is no doubt a gigantic multi-purpose scheme unique in the whole of India. I have visited the Project myself and must appreciate the superb work done by the Engineers. But I am of the opinion that this colossal task will not be successfully handled by our Engineers. It is just possible that they may be able to build high weir across the river Sutlej and successfully do canal construction and road or bridge building but I think they are absolutely raw at tunnelling and dam work. This work requires supervision of experts and it would be better if the work is entrusted to a foreign firm. When Boulder Dam in America which now holds the record was constructed, the big capitalists of America had set up factories to provide technical equipment for the Dam. But unfortunately India has to depend solely upon America for providing such machinery without which it would not be possible to speed up the projects. The Central Government should place large funds at the disposal of the State to materialise the huge work which is now in hand.

There are three canals in Ambala District but unfortunately all of them are not supplying water to the Ambala District. I had requested the Minister-in-charge to make arrangement for providing water to Ambala District through these canals as I understand that the Engineers have made survey of the soil and they are of the opinion that the water in the canals is at a low level. It would, therefore, be possible to raise the water level without any difficulty with the help of machinery. If the Government takes necessary steps in this direction, we will be able to give water supply from these canals to

land in Ambala for the whole of the year. I think Government has also entered into an agreement with the Bikaner State to give water supply. That State has agreed to give its land to our peasants for cultivation. The Government will be well advised to take that land and allot it to the displaced persons. It is also observed that in the area irrigated by canals, the Irrigation Department generally gives water outlets to the agriculturists for irrigation purpose. Such a system is open to serious objection as it encourages corruption and bribery in the Department. Such agriculturists can take water outlets who can give bribes to the officers in charge. But as regards the increased 'abiana' I would say that this will impede the progress of 'Grow More Food' Campaign.

Sir, I am here reminded of a story. A Raja went out for hunting and felt very thirsty. He went to a field of sugar-canes and asked the owner for a cup of water. The owner taking him to be some stranger crushed two canes, filled a cup and gave it to the Raja. The Raja was surprised to find that a cup had been filled only by two canes. He asked him as to how much he paid for land revenue. The farmer praising the ruler of the place said that the kind Raja was charging him only Rs. 2/-. The Raja went away but thinking that the farmer was very prosperous and that he contributed very little towards the exchequer thought of raising his tax to rupees ten. On another day the Raja happened to go to the same farm. When he asked for a drink the farmer could not fill the cup with ten canes. The Raja inquired as to why ten canes were required for a cup in place of two as he had seen before. The farmer replied that it was so perhaps because of some bad intentions on the part of the Raja of the place. This appears to be the position of our agriculturists *vis-a-vis* the Government.

Pandit Jiwan Lall (South West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I venture to place before this august House my views regarding irrigation. Many hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government towards Bhakra Dam, but I request the Government that other means of irrigation should not be lost sight of. After all water cannot be supplied to all districts from Bhakra. The experiment of boring tube wells has proved a great success in district Gurgaon and the same experiment can be tried at other places with profit. So far as District Gurgaon is concerned I have no doubt that Bhakra cannot supply its needs and the Government will do well in emulating the example of U. P. and spending as much money as it can on tube wells at that place. Such a step will help us to grow more and enable us to contribute more towards the coffers of the State. Sir, it is an admitted fact that district Gurgaon is a dry place. People and their lands are always thirsty for water. This year rains have failed and the people are not happy as their crops are bad. They are already paying water rate beyond their capacity but in case some more water can be made available to them they would be prepared to tolerate and pay any increase in this rate with pleasure.

As for the Bhakra Dam I have also, like some of my hon. Friends, seen things for myself and am of the opinion that this project will take a very long time to complete. The reason is that the work at that place is not being conducted in a proper way. For three or four months work is entrusted to one Minister and for three or four following months to another with the result that nobody feels the responsibility. In my humble opinion this work will only be accomplished if we bury the party spirit and all 78 Members work as one team. If Ministries are ephemeral and come and go they do not feel

[Pandit Jiwan Lall.]

secure and therefore cannot render useful service. According to the Hindustani adage a bride only serves the house when she has some security in the house.

ਬਹੁ ਕਟੋਰਾ ਤਬ ਭਰੇ ਜਬ ਰਹਨੇ ਕੀ ਹੋ ਆਸ ।

बहु कटोरा तब भरे जब रहने की हो आस ।

We should realize that the responsibility for running the Government does not lie only on the shoulders of three or four Ministers but on all of us who are Members of this House. When that happens I am sure our State will be marching from progress to progress.

Sardar Man Singh Jathedar (Ex- Member west Punjab Assembly representing Sheikhpura west, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir a good deal of discussion has taken place on Bhakra Dam and increase in "abiana" i.e. water rate. I wish to say something about the latter. I find that the poor zamindar is already paying so many taxes e.g. abiana, land revenue, local rate, chowkidara etc. etc. but all these taxes are utilized for providing amenities to the urbanites in the form of roads, schools, colleges and hospitals and no benefit goes to the rural people. It appears as if the villagers must sweat so that the people in the cities may lead luxurious lives. In Punjab they say :

ਬੁਲੇ ਲੈਣ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਗਭਰੀ ਤੇ ਸੱਟਾ ਖਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਜੁਮਾ ।

बुलहे लैण नू भागभरी ते सटां खान नू जुमा

The zamindar is already groaning under the heavy burden of taxes and it will be sheer injustice to effect any increase in the water rate. He is poor and cannot pay more. In these circumstances I would suggest that this burden should not be put on the zamindar but on shoulders which can easily carry it. If the zamindars are ignorant and weak, it does not mean that they should be exploited. They know that every day attempts are made to rob them of whatever little they have. So far they have paid all kinds of dues very willingly but this does not mean that their simplicity and goodness should stand them in bad stead. There are no schools or colleges in the villages. In my constituency there are one hundred such villages where there are no schools or colleges.

The decision to increase water rate has been made in order to bring it at par with that which prevailed in Lyallpur, Montgomery and Gujranwala. It should not be forgotten that those lands were much better and the water in the canals there flowed throughout the year. In our canals the water flows for not more than one week in a month. For the remaining days the canals remain closed. The seeds which we sow dry up before we get canal water. There are some canals which get water for only three or four months during the rainy season. I sowed paddy on thousands of acres of land in Kaithal and invested on it all the money which I had but there being no water in the canal, all my crops dried up. The canals in our State are entirely undependable and no zamindar can be sure of getting water from them. Not to speak of increased water rate, we have found it difficult to pay even land revenue. When the Financial Commissioner paid a visit to Kaithal, I

showed him the dried up crops of paddy and explained to him how difficult it was for us to pay the land-revenue. Under these circumstances it shall not be proper and just to raise water-rate to the level of that which prevailed in Lyallpur. The land in this State was not fertile and the Zamindar had already suffered heavy losses on the partition of the province. I request the Government not to increase the burden of taxes on poor kisans.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, there is a chart in front of me in which are given the grades of pay of the Overseers before and after 1946. They complained that their salary was very low and requested the Government to raise it. Their department acted in a manner in which hardly any other department would act. They agreed to concede to the request of the Overseers and raised their starting pay from Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 per mensem. After six years they came to realise that their pay had in fact been reduced. When their pay was Rs. 80 per mensem they got an annual increment of Rs. 7 but when it was raised to Rs. 90 per mensem the annual increment was reduced to Rs. 5. After seven years there was decrease in their pay. They have calculated that after twenty two years of service each one of them would have suffered a loss of about Rs. 3,250. Ordinarily it is found that every department sheltered its subordinates but in the case of this department you can mark the treatment meted out to the Overseers. What treatment could the public expect from such a department? There are three chief Engineers in this department who receive total salary exceeding one lakh of rupees, while thirty five peons are paid Rs. 9230 only in a year. What justice can be expected from this department? It is said that the Government was suffering loss in this department and it was therefore necessary to increase water-rate. When sixty lakhs of rupees are spent in the form of salaries, it is not fair to say that the Government is suffering loss. Will the Government complain of loss if it raises its expenditure on salaries to two crores? The Central Government is being praised in the whole country for one thing that it has recently done. In order to increase industrial output in the country, the Government has reduced the incidence of taxation on the industry. This has been done to undo the effect of Liaquat Ali Budget which was intended to benefit the Britishers. Dr. John Mathai acted boldly and challenged the Members of the Parliament that they would realise the wisdom of this decision after five years.

Take the case of our State now. Before partition the Punjab used to be a surplus Province and it used to export lakhs of tons of food-grains to other Provinces. After partition ours is a deficit State. It has a deficit of about one lakh or one and a half lakhs of tons of food-grains. The conditions may be worse this year due to bad crops. The other Provinces which are deficit in food-grains have the advantages of being industrialised. Bombay, Bengal, Madras and U. P. are highly industrialised States. In the case of our State, the small industry which existed in Amritsar is gradually flying to other States. When we are already deficit in food, the increase in water rate will mean lesser production and this would mean great loss to the State. At present there is widespread agitation among the public. While school teachers are agitating for the acceptance of their demands, the factory workers and Overseers are pressing for redress of their wrongs. The Overseers have announced their intention of staging a strike and if the Government fails to pay prompt attention, they might carry out their threat. The Government feels happy that the kisans do not agitate or go on strikes but it should remember that they do not believe in threats or other half measures. Their rising shook the strongest system in the world. For these reasons I shall

[Sardar Bachan Singh.]

ask the Government to realise the feelings of the kisans. They feel that they are already burdened with heavy taxes. They have to pay local rate, sales tax and several other taxes. It is feared that in the next settlement even land-revenue might be increased. The kisan to-day is quite different from the kisan of the past. At present the kisan is thinking as to what has become of the promises made by those who came to power about two and a half years back. These promises remain unfulfilled. There was a time when those who now hold the reins of office used to proclaim that under their regime the salaries of the big officers would be reduced. But what do we find? Nothing of the sort has been done. While on the one hand fat salaries of rupees three thousand a month are being paid and no reduction is carried out in the expenses of administration. On the other hand poor people are asked to pay more revenues to the State in the form of increased rates of abiana. Under the circumstances the farmer is compelled to consider whether he should change the present Government and replace it by one which may be more sympathetic towards the poor.

Sardar Swaran Singh Is it not a fact that the proposal for increasing the abiana was made by the Government of which the hon. Member was the Chief Parliamentary Secretary?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member should know that the office of the Chief Parliamentary Secretary is concerned with parliamentary affairs and not with the administrative policies. Moreover as far as I am concerned I have always opposed new taxes like abiana. I challenge Sardar Swaran Singh to prove that I ever did not oppose it. As a matter of fact it is Sardar Swaran Singh who speaks with two voices.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I think the hon. Member has also caught this disease from me. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I wish to submit is that there are some hon. Friends who pretend to be well-wishers of the kisans. But in fact they are in league with those who have nothing to do with the poor people. They pretend to be their friends while in fact they are not. When the question of voting comes they side with those who heap injustices upon the poor peasants. Sardar Swaran Singh is one of those persons.

✓ **Mr. Speaker**. No insinuations, please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I mean to say is that when any party especially when it is a Government party, decides that there is to be an increase in abiana its members will have to obey the party. If they speak against it, it is merely to mislead the people. When I was a member of the Congress party I was expected to support its policy. When I felt that by remaining in the Congress I could not serve the people, I left it. I consider it my duty to serve the people and not the party.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : That is irrelevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I was saying that the problem of abiana should be considered in the light of the fact whether its increase will help the farmers in the Grow More Food campaign or have an adverse effect upon it. I have fears in my mind that if the Government does not change its decision regarding abiana there might be a strong agitation throughout the length and

breadth of the Punjab and the Government will not be able to meet the challenge of the Kisans.

Sardar Isher Singh Mujhall (Amritsar North, Sikh, rural, *(Punjabi)*) : Sir, to-day I had no mind to speak on this problem. But the fact that the simple question of abiana has been given a colour of being a question between the ruralites and urbanites; and Jats and non-Jats, compels me to express my views on the subject. In my view this question has nothing to do with urban and rural conflict of interests. In this connection I wish to mention here that in Ferozepore sometime back when the zamindars were supplied more canal water their income increased. In a conference which among others was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, the Jats of the ilaqa decided to offer double the water rates of their own sweet will to the Government. What I mean to say is that if the income of the farmers increases they can have no objection in giving more water-rate to the State. In such a state of affairs the Kisans will be willing to part with a portion of their income for the revenues of the State. But my doubts are that the facts and figures, which some of my honourable Friends have quoted in order to show an increase in the income of the agriculturist and in order to give a justification for the enhanced rates of abiana, have no foundation. We should not be led away by these figures. My hon. Friend Shri Virendra has referred to the prosperity index. This index ignores some of the important facts which have a bearing upon the conclusions drawn from it. For instance, it has been stated that the prices of wheat and other food grains have gone up. But the fact that the prices of bullock have increased from rupees fifty or sixty to rupees six or seven hundred has not been mentioned.

Shri Virendra : But who sells these bullocks ?

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhall : Shri Virendra has asked as to who are the sellers of these bullocks. Of course, they are the agriculturists, but the example of the Abohar Seed Farm is before us. It is a farm managed and aided by the Government. If we look at the statistics relating to this farm we will notice that although the farmers connected with this farm have been provided all sorts of facilities which ordinary farmers do not get, still these farmer's lot is not as it should be. They are running at a loss. I cannot understand the argument that the income of the agriculturists has increased. On the other side also I don't like the view point that has been put forth by some of my hon. Friends that the abiana was increased because such and such a Minister was in power. These personal reflections should be avoided. My submission with regard to abiana is that the majority of members of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee are those who have no intimate knowledge of the agriculturists. They cannot realise the difficulties of the village people. In this connection my complaint is that the poor agriculturists, upon whom depends the prosperity of this State and who are in a difficult condition, have been unnecessarily taxed. The income of these people is meagre. In other States of India and in most of the foreign countries the taxes are generally levied on the income of the agriculturists and not upon their lands. But here the land is being taxed and not the real income. In the twentieth century when the Government claims to belong to exist for the people it is in the fitness of things that this system should be reviewed. Mr. Speaker my submission is that so far as the Irrigation Department is concerned; I have yet to see another department more unsympathe-

[Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.]

tic and indifferent towards the zamindars than this. I can adduce several cases in support of my assertion where the Irrigation Department has been unreasonably harsh to the zamindars. Why go far? There is a village Suhail Nagar in our ilaqa. The zamindars of that place have been unduly and unjustly inflicted with a collective fine by this department for a certain breach alleged to have been caused by the former. The fact of the matter is that the zamindars of Suhail Nagar informed the authorities in time that a certain breach in the canal was imminent but the latter took no timely action to avert that danger. The result was that the breach took place and then an enquiry was instituted by the department. The Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and other officials also visited the place and wrote in their reports that the said breach was natural and was not caused by the zamindars. But the department ignored these reports and penalised the whole village for this breach. This has happened because the department of Irrigation considered that might is right and that is why a collective penalty has been imposed on the helpless and poor zamindars for no fault of theirs. This was only a case of a village, but what has happened now? The whole zamindar community has been burdened with an additional tax in the form of increased abiana. I may point out, Sir, that the ordinary zamindar has been hit hard as a result of this action. He is smarting under the blow and we would be failing in our duty as representatives of the zamindars, if we do not bring it to the notice of the Government that this undue enhancement in water-rates has caused great resentment among them. It is no exaggeration to say that the tiller of the soil is unable to bear this burden and it would become well nigh impossible for him to make both ends meet. But I wish that Government resolves this difficulty in such a manner that on the one hand the poor zamindar is saved from this additional burden and on the other it would be able to tide over the financial loss that would be caused to the exchequer by the remittance of the enhancement made in abiana. I, therefore, request that realisation of abiana on enhanced rates may be deferred for some time till the submission of the report by the Retrenchment and Resources Committee proposed to be appointed by the Government. I feel that Government should devise ways and means which may result in the reduction of expenditure and increase in the receipts.

Then, Sir I would request the Government to direct their Agriculture Department to disseminate full information to the zamindars as to how much water a particular crop requires for its maturity. Besides I would suggest that the village panchayats should be entrusted with the work of maintenance of record of water supplied to individual zamindars, and that abiana should be assessed on the basis of water utilised by a zamindar for irrigating his lands. The greater the quantity of water used in irrigating lands, the larger will be the amount of abiana assessed on it, and *vice versa*.

There is yet another important point to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government, and it is this. During the last settlement operation which took place in the Amritsar District, the land revenue was based on the sliding scale system. I may point out that under this method assessment is made on the basis of prices of agricultural commodities prevailing in the market. So the Amritsar district has for long been paying revenue at higher rates. I, therefore, suggest that the district of Amritsar should be precluded from the scheme of levy of increased abiana by fifty per cent. Under the existing conditions the district of Amritsar deserves this concession. If at all Government cannot help levying this enhancement in water rates, it should enforce it in the Punjab minus the Amritsar district.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, my hon. Friends have said many things on the subject of abiana but I feel that nobody has attempted to relate the real facts of the matter. If these facts have been brought to the notice of the Government, the enhancement of abiana would not have taken place. Strictly speaking, the officers at the helm of affairs of the Irrigation Department possess *baran* mentality. They do not realise the difficulties of the tiller of the soil. I would suggest that those officers who have suggested an increase of abiana by fifty per cent, should personally go and see the nature of the duties which a zamindar is required to perform in the matter of growing agricultural commodities, and what hardships he has to undergo with a view to see that his crops get properly matured. Do they realise that during rainy seasons in the month of Sawan, when lands are generally infested with snakes and lightning threatens to destroy anything that comes in its way, the poor zamindar is out in his field to put it in order and is unmindful of what may happen to him? May I ask if he is bitten by a snake, what the officer of the Irrigation Department can do for him? Sir, I feel that the officials of the Irrigation Department should not be paid any emoluments. (*Laughter.*) They should rather be asked to pay something to the exchequer from their pocket (*Renewed laughter*). The reason is not far to seek. The Irrigation officers live in free bungalows, get free rations and every other facility free of charge. I would like to make a mention of their unsympathetic attitude towards the Zamindars. There are two distributaries running through our village. The water at the tail of one distributary is very meagre and is insufficient for irrigating lands situated at the tail. But all the same abiana is charged at full rates. I advised the Zamindars of that place to request the Irrigation authorities to arrange for more water at the tail. But the answer they received was that they should ask Chaudhri Badlu Ram to make such arrangements. Then, Sir, a breach took place in a water outlet naturally but the zamindar whose lands was flooded, was fined for all the water that went to his lands for no fault of his. This is how the poor Zamindar receives shabby treatment at the hands of these officials. I am constrained to remark that the difficulties of the Zamindars are not taken into account by the officers or the Government while passing orders for the enhancement of abiana, from Simla Hills. I have no mind to raise the question of agriculturist and non - agriculturist. But I cannot help saying that generally those people support an increase in the abiana who do not possess an inch of land. They sell newspapers and yet raise controversies of Zamindars and non-Zamindars. But we Zamindars who produce for the good of all have been burdened with additional tax.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, much has been said about this demand and my hon. Friends have given free and full expression of their views on the subject. They have also given vent to their sentiments, feelings and difficulties arising out of the enhancement of abiana. I have nothing more to add on that point. But I would like to request the Government to lose no time to appoint the Retrenchment and Resources Committee with a view to finding out ways and means for the enhancement of income and reduction of expenditure. I suggest that it should propose heavy taxes wherever possible, to enable the Government to withdraw the enhancement of abiana and bring it to the previous level.

Sir, I come from Lyallpur District where I was directly concerned wioi canals. I would like to say a few things about the working of the Irrigatnht

[Sardar Kartar Singh.]

Department. Being directly concerned with the canals, and having contacts with the people who were also concerned with the canals, I know the difficulties and grievances of the people in connection with the supply of water by the Irrigation Department. I am really constrained to remark that corruption is rampant in this department. In fact the employees of this department are accustomed to receive bribes. In my opinion so much corruption was not found in the Police Department previously as we find in the Irrigation Department to-day. I may assure my hon. Friends that while constructing almost every outlet the employees concerned of this department reserve some share for themselves. The employees concerned of the department hesitate to make any water supply to zamindars from the canals, unless their palms are greased. In 99 out of 100 cases in connection with the water supply, the employees have got to be bribed. As a matter of fact there is every likelihood of stoppage of water supply unless their thirst for more and more bribes is not quenched. This is not all. Even at the time of imposing fines and also at the time of realizing these, they will not hesitate to demand bribes from the poor Zamindars. Corruption is the order of the day in this department and the sooner it is liquidated the better would it be in the interests of both the Government and the zamindars.

Some mention has been made about the working of the department in the district of Amritsar where employees have devised ways and means to make money by resorting to corruption. Zamindars are required to put in fresh applications every 3rd or 6th month with a view to obtain sanction for making water supplies available to them in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. This system of obtaining permission after every 3rd or 6th month has been introduced only with a view to earn some money by resorting to corruption. In my opinion there was no necessity to introduce this system. Canal water would have easily been made available to villages by turns. My hon. Friend, will be surprised to know that day in and day out the employees of this department are busy devising ways and means to remodde the distributaries and outlets with a view to resort to corruption. Under the circumstances entire liquidation of corruption which is rampant in this department is the pressing need of the hour. If this is done, I am sure, people of our State in general and the Zamindars in particular will appreciate the uses of the canals.

Further I would like to say a few words with regard to the expenditure of this department. My hon. Friends know it full well that a third post of a Chief Engineer was created during the regime of the previous Ministry. My hon. Friends will be surprised to know that those who were responsible for creating this extra post happened to be the real well wishers of the Zamindars. This is not all. The representatives of the Zamindars in the Cabinet also were in favour of creating another post of Chief Engineer. But there were some Ministers of the cabinet who opposed this proposal. At that time I also opposed this proposal. But inspite of all this opposition, the extra post of Chief Engineer was created. My hon. Friends know it full well that there used to be 3 Chief Engineers in the United Punjab where we had intensively irrigated and fertile lands of the canal colonies. Our State has got only 21% of the total area irrigated by the canals in the United Punjab. Under the circumstances we do not feel any necessity to have as many as 3 Chief Engineers. In my opinion only 2 Chief Engineers are quite sufficient, and the services of another Chief Engineer are no longer required in our State. If this third post is not abolished, it would mean an extra burden on the poor agriculturists and the sooner this post is abolished the better would it be in the interests of the State as a whole.

This department also spends huge amounts on earthwork in connection with the embankments and the renovation of bunds. Provision is also made in the Budget every year for this purpose. My hon. Friends would be surprised to know that very little quantity of earth is utilized in this direction and the major portion of the amounts earmarked for earthwork goes into the pockets of the officials. I would therefore request the Government to reduce this expenditure and see that the whole amount of expenditure earmarked in the Budget is actually spent in this direction.

Further my hon. Friends have been suggesting to the Government to raise the salaries of the subordinate services and also improve the lot of the poor people in the State. My hon. Friend from Ludhiana has said in the course of his speech that day in and day out salaries of the officers are being increased by the Government. In my opinion he is not right in saying this that the salaries have been increased. I am of the opinion that the salaries have not increased. On the other hand we find that prices of all the essential commodities have shot up to abnormal levels. It is because of this fact that the proposals regarding the increase of the poor subordinate services and also about the reduction in the expenditure cannot at present be implemented in view of our present income. However I would request the Government to reduce the salaries and the allowances of the high officials. My hon. Friends would be surprised to know that all Government servants, whether high or low complain that they find it very difficult to pull on with their present salaries. An officer drawing more than Rs. 3000/- per month and a low paid Government servant drawing not more than Rs 20/- a month make the same complaint that they cannot pull on with their present salaries. In fact all Government servants have to tell the same tale. In this connection I am reminded of an instance. Once Sardar Ganda Singh, professor of Khalsa College, Amritsar, while touring France and Germany met a German Lieutenant. At that time a wave of nationalism and patriotism had swept the whole of Germany. The professor asked him as to how much salary he was drawing. The German lieutenant replied that he was drawing an amount equal to about Rs. 140/- per month. Hearing this the professor asked him if he was not finding it difficult to pull on with this meagre amount of salary. He was really surprised to hear the following words by way of reply to his remarks :—

I am sorry my Fatherland is very poor, it cannot pay me more.

This is the spirit of the people of those countries which are progressing day by day. How can a country where people are ill-fed and ill-clothed, make any progress? I am of the opinion that our Government should not lose any time in reducing the salaries of the highly paid officials. As a matter of fact these officials should set up an example by volunteering themselves to have reduction in their salaries. But so far as the question of raising the salaries of the subordinate services is concerned, this can be possible only at that time when the income of our State will increase or in other words when the State would be prosperous. So far as the 'Warashikni' (interference with the turn) of water supply is concerned, Government should make it a cognizable offence. It has been experienced that the officers are not empowered to deal with such untoward happenings. If this offence is made cognizable much of the litigation among the jats would be saved and this would be in the interests of both the Government and the jats themselves. Such a step on the part of the Government, would, I am sure, result in fair and equitable distribution of canal water.

[Sardar Kartar Singh.]

Lastly, I would like to bring this point home to the Government that sufficient quantity of water is not to be found in the Doaba Illaqa as a result of which people experience much inconveniences for want of water for irrigation purposes. Due to scarcity of water in this illaqa we find that the wells too have become almost dry. I would request the Government to make adequate arrangements in this direction.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir I have listened attentively to all the speeches that have been delivered in the House. But at the very outset I would like to say that I would deal with the question neither as an urbanite nor as a ruralite because even though I happen to live in a town, I have no vested interest in a town or in a village. My sole interest is in the State and I would consider this question only from that point of view. I would frankly admit that I am not an economist but a practical man indeed and have studied this problem from that point of view. When I used to study in the College I vividly recollect to have heard a story narrated by our Professor Lala Gokul Chand. It is as follows :—

Once upon a time four experts, namely, an astrologer, a philosopher, a mathematician and a musician set out for an expedition. They travelled for some distance and reached a town. Before entering the city, they conferred with each other and sought the advice of the astrologer as to how and at what time they should seek entry into the city. He advised them to enter it through drain and at the zero hour of the night. All of them followed that silly process though with seeming patience and great difficulty. On the following day they proposed to make arrangement for their meals. On mutual consultation, the task of purchasing the necessary articles was entrusted to the mathematician and the philosopher. Both of them went to the grocer's shop and asked for ghee. The grocer supplied them with the necessary quantity and the mathematician after inquiring about the rate busied himself to make calculations on the paper to arrive at the exact amount of payment they had to make. In the meantime, the grocer put the ghee in the cup and when the cup was almost full to the brim, there was some ghee left over. It was now a problem for them to put the ghee in that cup. The mathematician sought the advice of the philosopher who assuming an air of conscious importance suggested to put the remaining ghee in the lower portion of the cup which was empty. On his advice they turned the cup upside down with the result that ghee was spilt over the ground. The musician was then asked to prepare meals for them and he put some vegetables in a pot and put it on the fire. As soon as the water began to boil, its sound did not appear to him musical and not tolerating the vulgar tune, he took a handful of dust and put it in the pot to stop that jarring sound. In this way he spoiled the whole broth.

I do not claim to be such an expert. My hon. Friends who have participated in the debate should have given practical suggestions instead of quoting certain theories of economists irrespective of the fact whether they are applicable to the present case or not. In the speeches that have been delivered in the House, the hon. Members have raised objection against the increased abiana as well as Bhakra Dam and have made suggestions in this behalf. It is really a curious commentary on the Budget to say that measures should not be devised to raise the revenue of the State. It would have been pertinent to offer suggestions for economy in Government expenditure and to criticise the Budget on this score, but any criticism that is levelled against raising an additional revenue at this stage does not seem to be justified. The hon. Members can raise this objection on the day when the Appropriation Bill comes before the House. On that day they can suggest

ways and means for expanding the sources of revenue for consideration of the Government. That course, if adopted by the hon. Members, would be reasonable. But anyhow I would like to reply to all the objections that have been raised by my hon. Friends. Sir, it has been presumed that the Government has been influenced by the condition of profit to increase the water rate and according to them such a course is open to a serious objection in so far as the Irrigation Department is not a Commercial Department from their point of view. But I would say that it is a Commercial Department of the Government. This fact is borne out by the Punjab Financial Rules. On page 17, there is a list of departments and undertakings at present run on commercial basis which is as follows : -

1. Mayo Schools of Arts and Crafts;
2. Demonstration Weaving Factory Shahdara;
3. Public Works Department, Irrigation, Navigation etc ;
4. Works for which Capital Revenue Accounts are kept ;
5. Central Workshop, Amritsar;
6. Government Tannery Shahdara;
7. Government Printing.

This shows that the irrigation Department is a Commercial Department and method of keeping the accounts is also different. I would submit that the Government's income from the Sirhind and Upper Bari Doab Canals has decreased. In 1941-42, the income from Sirhind Canal; was 16 per cent; in 1944-45, it was 18·88 per cent; in 1946-47 it was 14·46 per cent, in 1947-48, it was 4·48 per cent and in 1948-49, it was 7·53 per cent. Similarly in the case of the Upper Bari Doab Canal, the income in 1941-42, was 25·25 per cent, in 1944-45, it was 25·15 per cent, in 1946-47, it was 10·23 per cent, in 1947-48, it was 3·68 per cent, and in 1948-49, it was 4·4, per cent. With these figures, the hon. Members can themselves judge that there has been a gradual decrease in the income and it is the duty of the Government to increase the revenue of the State. This abiana is, therefore, levied on commercial basis and cannot conform to the principle on which assessment of land revenue is made. If we had to increase the land revenue, I could have understood the principles enunciated by my hon. Friends. The water rate cannot be assessed on the same basis on which land revenue is fixed. Similarly the basis of fixing income tax or land tenure rent has nothing to do with abiana i.e. water rate. I think it will be easy to follow what I say if we do not confuse the principles which are involved in various forms of taxation.

One of my hon. Friends made a reference to the principles and the programme of the National Economic Committee and gave a few quotations. How I wish that not only this State but the whole of our country were to act on those principles. I shall certainly bless the day when we will be able to follow them. These principles define our goal and destination towards which we are bound. But the destination cannot be achieved in a day and in spite of our good intentions we have to pass through certain stages. I believe if we try to dispense with the intermediate stages and jump at the goal right away, we may be creating anarchy on which all good things may have to be thrown to the winds. We should try to follow in the footsteps of the father of the Nation, the Great Mahatma Gandhi who always stood for evolution and not revolution. But it is painful to find that those who deliver sermons in this House on socialism and

[Chief Minister.]

communism happen themselves to possess big factories, vast areas of land and other valuable property. They appear to have reserved these good theories for our consumption only and they do not mean to practise them themselves. So far as I am concerned I know that the distribution of the national wealth in our country is greatly defective and we are not doing justice to those who produce our wealth but matter cannot be set right in a day and we shall have to struggle for some times to bring the system of our dreams into existence.

Sir, it has been said that we do not give sufficient water for the crops. I may say that in Pakistan one cusec of water from the Lower Jhelum, Lower Chenab and Lower Bari Doab is made to water 142 acres of land during Kharif and 177 acres during Rabi. As against this we give one cusec of water from West Jamuna, Sirhind and Upper Bari Doab Canals for 88 acres during Kharif and for 92 acres during Rabi. These figures clearly show that the same quantity of water is supplied to greater area in Pakistan than here in our State. I think in these circumstances nobody should be under a misunderstanding that we do not give sufficient quantity of water. Of course we know the reason why we have to give more water than is given in Pakistan. It is due to the fact that our holdings require consolidation and we shall make every effort to complete this work as soon as we can.

Sardar Jogindar Singh Man: It is due to the fact that water in Pakistan is given for 15 days whereas here water is supplied only for 7 days.

Chief Minister: Anyhow I do not follow this argument. I do not understand the technicalities myself but my common sense says that when we give one cusec for a smaller area than in Pakistan we cannot be accused of giving less water.

Sir, my argument should not be taken to mean that I am jealous of those who possess canal irrigated lands or that I am not as good a well wisher of theirs as some of my agriculturist friends who have opposed the increase in water rate. I may assure my agriculturist friends that I have an earnest desire to do as much good to them as I possibly can. I for one wish to develop agriculture like any industry so that the agriculturists are enabled to earn handsome incomes. The small zamindars should be treated like small industrialists and the big zamindars like big business magnates. Of course when big industries are to be nationalised the big holdings of land would also be nationalized according to my conceptions.

Sir, it has been remarked that the agriculturists were not properly represented on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and perhaps this was one of the reasons why greater burden of taxes was being imposed on the rural population. If I remember right there were one or two landlords who were members of the Committee though they were non-agriculturists. To me technically they were not agriculturists but they know everything about cultivation and they were in a position to suggest taxes for cultivators to increase the revenues of the State. I think they were the right type of men for this work. It would certainly not have been proper to entrust this work to pure agriculturists as they might not have suggested anything that went against them.

It has been said that I am not a land-lord and am not acquainted with problems concerning land, but this much I can say that I can make calculations

about these matters. Some of my hon. Friends said that they tried their best to prevail upon me but I did not accept their suggestion. I am prepared to accept full responsibility in this matter because my conscience is clear. I know that whatever I do is intended for the well-being of the State with which is connected the well-being of all its people. I do not mean to benefit or harm any individual

Agra Branch canal flows through district Gurgaon. This is a canal of U.P. and the zamindars of Gurgaon who irrigate their lands with its water pay water-rate to that Government. The incidence of water-rate charged by that Government is higher than our rate. It was higher even before the increase recently made by them. I am not in a position to say whether only money crops were grown with the water supplied by Agra Branch Canal, but if my information is correct, the Punjab Government used to pay sixteen thousand rupees to the Co-operative Society, Gurgaon because the people of that district had to pay this amount in excess on account of water-rate to the U.P. Government. In this connection, our dispute with that Government is still going on. The Governments of U.P. and Pepsu have already enhanced their water-rate by forty per cent. The manner in which the water is supplied in Pepsu is not different from that in which we do it. It is not a valid argument to say that money crops like cotton and sugar-cane are grown with the water supplied by that Government because in our case also the incidence of water-rate varies with the crop. It is the highest in the case of money-crops, lower in the case of wheat and other food-grains and quite nominal in the case of fodder. The enhancement which we propose to make will affect all the crops in the same proportion. I also wish to submit, Sir, that the Government has to take into consideration the increase in produce which would result from irrigating with canal water that land which had been uncultivated so far. Nobody can dispute the fact that much more labour is involved in the case of well-irrigated land than in the case of canal irrigated land. Working of water-wells for irrigating fields involves a great deal of labour and hard work. Some labour is surely involved in the case of canal irrigated land also but it is less than that involved on well-irrigated land. As better facilities had been extended to the growers in various forms, resulting in added income to them, it is not unjustified if Government asked for some share of that added income. In this connection, I wish to point out that by supply of water from Eastern canals, Ferozepore, for additional irrigation during Kharif 1949, fifty thousand acres of extra land were brought under cultivation. Whereas formerly paddy used to be grown on only twelve thousand acres of land, it was grown on twenty seven thousand acres on account of this additional supply of water. This resulted in the production of additional three lakh maunds of paddy. If its price is calculated, this process yielded additional rice worth sixty lakhs of rupees. The Government had to surely incur extra expenditure for making this additional supply. I don't deny that hard work on the part of kisans was responsible for cultivation of additional acreage of land, but the Government too had to spend a huge sum of money. In these circumstances if fifty per cent increase in water-rate is proposed to be made, it should not be considered an unreasonable act.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Kindly say something about Bist Doab canal also.

Chief Minister : Without saying anything more in this connection, I wish to submit that the Government tried its best to avoid increase in water rate and it would still be prepared to reduce it or completely do

[Chief Minister.]

away with it, if the Committee which would be set up for this purpose suggests alternate sources of revenue. A Committee on Estimates has already been constituted and if it recommends that the posts of Chief Engineers should be abolished and the Sub Divisional Officer would be sufficient for carrying on the work, I would be prepared to accept its suggestion. If it recommends that the posts of Sub Divisional Officers should also be abolished and the work should be carried on by overseers alone, I shall take action accordingly.

-It was not proper on the part of some hon. Members to say that there would be revolution in the State, if the Government did not act in a particular manner. I have also been a revolutionary but not like my those Friends who deserted their party without resigning their seats which they got on that party's ticket.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Revolution will come.

Chief Minister : It will not come because of you, a renegade. Some persons are carrying on agitation for creating anarchy in the State. They are not acting for the benefit of the people but are playing the game of party politics. I know how to meet such a situation. I shall go to them and tell them that the Government required money for carrying on the administration. If they could suggest means of raising the necessary money, I shall accept their demands. Those who are really interested in the well-being of the people will listen to what I have to say. I know that those who wish to carry on agitation for the sake of agitation will not succeed in their mission because the heart of the kisan whom they wish to exploit is sound. He will not permit himself to be exploited by political exploiters. Sir, I would like to state here that the water from Bhakra Dam would be given to Jullundur etc in the Bist Doab Canal according to the previous scheme. We consider it our duty to carry on with that scheme also so that we may be able to provide the benefit of increased water supply to that area. It has been alleged that we are giving a low priority to this scheme. I would like to state that this allegation has no foundation at all. As far as we can we are trying to provide as much finances for this scheme as possible.

Some of my hon. Friends have criticised the Government for keeping three Chief Engineers in the State. According to them there appears to be no need for the services of three Chief Engineers. But I would like to tell my hon. Friends that there is a necessity for three Chief Engineers for our State, because we have many important schemes in hand and we cannot undertake this important task without the services of three Chief Engineers. Such projects which we have cannot make a headway without their technical skill and expert knowledge. To take only the case of Bhakra and Nangal projects, every one knows that there is the necessity of one Chief Engineer for this important work. His services cannot be dispensed with. So there is no ground for under-estimating the services rendered by the Chief Engineers to the State.

As regards salaries and grades of the big officers, I would like to point out that we constituted a committee to advise the Government in this matter, of course, we admit the principle that the salaries of the higher posts can be reduced. But in this connection I would draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that we cannot touch the salaries which we are giving to those already employed. In future whenever the grades are revised we will keep it in mind that the grades of big officers like Executive Engineers

Superintending Engineers and Chief Engineers are reduced for the new entrants.

So far as the question of corruption in this Department is concerned I am prepared to admit that there had been cases of corruption in the past. But we have made up our mind to root it out completely. I am glad to say that we have achieved some success in this. But to be completely successful, co-operation from all quarters is needed. In bribery for instance, the man who offers bribe is also at fault. If we try to raise the standard of morality of the ordinary citizen and make attempts to create an atmosphere in which no one can find an opportunity of receiving or offering bribes, we can achieve success. The moral values of society should be such that no quarter is given to a corrupt man. It is only by such co-operation from all that we can completely root out corruption.

As regards the question of salaries and grades of the overseers we can take action in the matter after full inquiry. The hon. Members are, I think, aware of the fact that their grades were revised in 1946. The overseers had given their approval of the decision of the Pay Commission in the matter. Even now I don't say that we are not prepared to look into the matter to see what changes can be made.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But please don't increase their salary.
(Laughter).

Chief Minister : As far as revisions are concerned the hon. Members should know that often it becomes difficult for the Government to take any class of services separately without affecting the other Departments and services. The effect of a revision in one case is felt throughout the whole net work of the services. If we make a change at one place another change is demanded from another place. For instance when an increase in pay was allowed in the case of Police Department a similar increase was demanded in Jails Department. It had its effect upon Patwaris and Forest Guards and so on. In the case of Police the increase in grade had to be met by a corresponding decrease in the number of employees. Similarly if the pay of overseers is to be increased it will have its effect upon their number. There is a demand for increase in salaries but where-from can we get money? If we try to impose or increase a tax the opposition raises a hue and cry against the proposal. How can we go on increasing the expenditure without any increase in the income of State? The object of those who are in opposition appears to be to increase the discontentment among the services and to create a condition of anarchy in the State. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Chaudhari Lahri Singh : He (Sardar Bachan Singh) is a habitual offender.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, but he must change.

Chief Minister : Sir, I was going to say that we realise the difficulties of the overseers working at Bhakra and Nangal. In view of the conditions special to them we are considering a proposal of giving them a special allowance.

As far as the labourers are concerned we have every desire to help them as far as we can. We have always been generous in the past. As a matter of fact we helped them when we recruited them from the refugee camps

[Chief Minister.]

where they were not happy. If my hon. Friend had studied the figures regarding pay of these labourers he would not have said that we are not doing anything for the labourers working at Bhakra. As a matter of fact the labour at Bhakra is better paid than elsewhere.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I hope the hon. Chief Minister will not relegate their case to the background because of what the opposition says.

Chief Minister : We won't do that. What I was saying is that we are already doing our best for them. The House should realise that the Bhakra project is being financed by loans which we receive from the Centre. We have to spend the money cautiously. It is quite easy to criticize and find loop holes but is most difficult to manage such matters. My hon. Friend has stated that we are unfair to the labour working at Bhakra and that a deputation wanted to see the Government to explain their difficulties. I would like to point out that we are always prepared to listen to the just grievances of the people. As regards Bhakra I am fully aware of the condition prevailing there and we are trying our utmost to improve matters as far as lies in our power to do so. So it is quite unfair on the part of the opposition to say that we are doing nothing for labour.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I object to the leave being given to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

The Motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,21,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

The Motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Friday, 24th March 1950.

Qaumi Press, Jullundur.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

24th March 1950

Vol. I—No. 15

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, the 24th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR

An hon. Member : I suggest, Sir, that the Question hour be dispensed with today.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I myself think that it would be better if that is done because today is the last day for the discussion on Demands for Grants and guillotine is to be applied at 12.30. If one hour is taken up for questions, we will have only an hour and a half left for the discussion of the Demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I oppose this suggestion, Sir. I think questions are equally important.

✓ **Mr. speaker :** I leave it to the House to decide it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I submit that question hour should not be dispensed with.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If the House does not want it, I have no objection.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FURTHER EDUCATION SCHEME OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL.

***1591. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount of money spent by the Government on the further education scheme of ex-service personnel under the "Post War Development Scheme" in the Arts colleges and in the professional colleges;
- (b) the number of students benefitted by the above mentioned scheme in different categories [separately ?]

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Arts Colleges Rs.68,362/-
Professional Colleges Rs.18,464/-

(b) Arts Colleges 67
Professional Colleges 27

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know how much contribution has the Government of India made in this connection ?

Minister : Notice is required for supplying this information.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How is it that only a small amount has been spent for this purpose in the professional Colleges?

Minister : Obviously, because the number of such institutions is small.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of students who were benefitted by this scheme ?

Minister : It is given in part (b) of the reply to the original question.

FEE CONCESSION TO HARIJAN STUDENTS

***1692. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the amount spent by the Government as share given to privately managed educational institutions in lieu of fee concession granted to the students belonging to Harijan and backward Sikh classes, studying in (i) privately managed institutions, and (ii) local bodies institutions of the State separately ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Rs. 9305/- have been sanctioned as grant in-aid in lieu of fee concession given to the students belonging to Harijan and backward Sikh classes studying in privately managed schools and colleges. No local body institutions have claimed such a grant in-aid so far.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know how much money was given on this account to the institutions run by the local bodies ?

Minister : No local body institutions have claimed such a grant-in-aid so far.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of privately-managed institutions which were granted aid for this purpose ?

Minister : Notice is required for a reply to this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that most of these institutions have represented that the amount allocated to them is not sufficient ?

Minister : No such representation has been received.

QUOTA FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION

***1694 Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

- (a) the quota allotted to the State by the Government of India for the furtherance of social education and the way the Government intends to spend it;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the above referred to allotment is too small as compared with other States in India. If so, whether the Government has made any representation to the Government of India for an increase in its quota and with what results ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) The amount allotted by the Government of India for the furtherance of social education scheme during the current year is Rs. 2 lakhs. This State has 134 social education Centres for men and women in the province. According to the programme suggested by the Ministry of Education and approved by the Government of this State.

- (b) Information is not available in regard to the allotment made by the Government of India to the other States. Therefore no comparison can be made. So far as this State is concerned, the Government of India in the first instance allotted Rs.1 lakh but on a representation gave an additional 1 lakh of rupees.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that before making any such allotment, the Government of India insists that the State Government concerned should also first provide a certain amount for the purpose in question ?

Chief Minister : Yes, this is true.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the Government of India made a smaller allotment for this purpose to this State, because the Punjab Government could not afford to contribute enough for this purpose ?

Chief Minister : No, this is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government of India decided to sanction rupees three lakhs for this State but this amount was

[Shri Prabodh Chandra.]

not given as our own Government was not prepared to contribute equa to that sum ?

Chief Minister : It is not so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government of India have given one lakh as the Punjab Government was prepared to contribute only as 32,000.

Chief Minister : This question cannot be answered off hand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that figures supplied by the Education Department show that the Government of India has given rupees one lakh instead of rupees ten lakh, for the reason that the States Government could not contribute sufficient money in time.

Chief Minister : A regular notice should be given for such a question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What is the sum sanctioned by this Government?

Chief Minister: The hon. Member can see the budget.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government approached the Government of India for more funds in view of the fact that less than rupees two lakhs have been given?

Chief Minister: Notice is required for this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is the sum of rupees two lakhs meant for this year?

Chief Minister: Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that only 34 schools would be maintained by this sum of rupees two lakhs ?

Chief Minister: Notice is required for this question.

REPRESENTATION BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, PANIPAT

***1389. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a representation on behalf of the property owners Association, Panipat (district Karnal) was received by Government; if so, the result thereof;
- (b) whether in the work of Rehabilitation interests of local property holders were ignored ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad: (a) Yes. The principal complaint was that properties mortgaged with possession by the evacuees to the local people had been taken possession of by the Custodian and no rent thereof was being paid to the mortgagees. On account of the large number of cases pending in the district there had been some delay in disposal of these cases. An additional officer was consequently posted to the district. There are no arrears now and it is believed that either actual possession of all such property has been restored to the local mortgagees or the tenants are paying rent direct to them. The Deputy Commissioner, Karnal discussed the representation with the members of the Association and assured them that all their genuine grievances will be removed. Certain allegations in the representation were of a general character and the Association has consequently been required to bring specific cases to the notice of the Custodian for necessary action which has not been done so far.

(b) No.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal take proper action on the complaint of the Association?

Minister: Certainly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Deputy Commissioner submitted his report regarding the action taken by him?

Minister: : I have already said that the Deputy Commissioner asked for specific cases but the required information has not yet been given to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that some Hindu property owners had been deprived of their just rights only because their property was in the possession of Muslim tenants?

Minister: As I have already said the complaint was of a general nature and mentioned no specific cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the hon. Minister bothered to read the complaint himself to see whether it was specific or of a general nature?

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN VILLAGES PANJWAR AND PALASAUR UNDER THE QUASI PERMANENT SCHEME

*666. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of lands under the quasi permanent scheme has been completed at village Panjwar and village Palasaur, district Amritsar ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(b) whether any local colonists entitled to more than 50 acres of land have been allotted lands in these villages in preference to the temporary allottees of small holding ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the names of the persons who have been allotted lands under the quasi permanent scheme and the area to which each one of them was entitled under the scheme together with the total area allotted to each one of them ;

(d) The names of the persons who were temporary allottees in these villages but who have not been allotted any land there together with the total area of land to which each one of them was entitled ;

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, in two cases, reasons being :—

(i) In one case they were the colonists of the same village.

(ii) In the other case a joint family had to be resettled at one place.

(c) A list A is enclosed.¹

(d) A list (E) is enclosed.¹

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that some persons shown in the list, e.g. Buta Singh, Asa Singh and so many others have not got justice.

Minister: I shall consult the list with the help of the hon. Member and in case there is any irregularity it will be set right.

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR IN THE STATE

***1522. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the country and foreign liquor shops in each district of the State respectively, on 1-1-47, 1-1-48, 1-1-49, and 1-1-50 ;

(b) the total number of liquor shops in the State at present ;

(c) the total quantity of the country and the foreign liquor consumed in the State during the year 1946-47, 1948-49 and the 1st 10 months of 1949-50 ;

(d) the price fixed for each kind of country liquor and the foreign liquor per bottle during each of the years referred to in part (b) above ;

1. Kept in the Library.

(e) the total Excise duty recovered from each district for the period referred to in part (b) above ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) A statement marked "Statement" 'A' is laid on the table¹.

(b) The total number of liquor shops in the Punjab on the 1st March 1950, was 609.

(c) A statement marked "Statement 'B'" is laid on the table¹.

(d) Presumably, the hon. Member refers to the years mentioned in part 'c' of the question.

No prices were fixed either for country liquor or for foreign liquor in this State during the years 1946-47, 1948-49, and the first ten months of 1949-50.

(e) Presumably, the hon. Member refers to the years mentioned in part 'C' of the question.

A statement marked "Statement 'C'" showing the revenue derived during the year 1946-47 is laid on the table¹. The information for the year 1948-49 and for the first ten months of 1949-50 is not yet ready.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the reason that number of liquor shops has risen from 43 in 1947 to 59 in 1948 and in 1950.

Minister : There is no increase in the total number of the shops. The visible difference is due to the fact that some shops have been shifted from one place to another.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What I wish to know is whether Government has received any representations from my District to increase the number of shops from 43 to 59 ?

Minister : The hon. Member is probably not aware that those who drink ask for shops.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that Ambala the number of foreign-liquor shops was 39 in 1949, 37 in 1948 and 54 in 1949. May I know the cause of Ambala having been singled out for this treatment which will result in a large amount of money being drained out of this country ?

Minister : As has already been submitted, new shops have to be opened at places where military postings are made.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it the general policy of the Government to

1. Kept in the Library.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

open more liquor-shops at all places? Was the increase in these shops in Amritsar from 43 to 59 necessitated by military requirements?

Minister : I have already explained the position.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Was not the military posted at Ambala in 1947 when the number of foreign-liquor shops was much smaller?

Minister : More shops were not needed at that time.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What is the cause of consumption of liquor being highest in Amritsar as compared with all other districts of the State?

Minister : Those who drink can tell better.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the number of foreigners in Amritsar increased during the last two years?

Minister : The number of those who consume foreign liquor has increased.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The statement given by the Minister shows that the total consumption of country-liquor in the district of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Ferozepore and Jullundur is greater than that in the remaining seven districts taken together. Does the Government propose to reduce its consumption in the four districts named by me?

Minister : The hon. Member should have no objection because the number of liquor-shops has been increased in his district too. I hope that he will not suggest the closing down of these shops which would result in illicit distillation and loss of revenue to the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government decide this question from the point of view of its revenue alone? Is it not aware of the fact that there has been increase in crime in these districts?

Minister : Liquor is not the cause of increase in crime.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In pre-partitioned Punjab Beer was treated as liquor but here it has been exempted at the request of a deputation which met the Minister concerned on behalf of Solan Brewery. Is it not a fact that if shops dealing in Beer were also treated as liquor shops, their total number would be much larger than that given in the statement?

Minister : No deputation met Government on behalf of Solan Brewery. The statement made by the hon. Member in this connection is based on incorrect information. No special treatment has been given to Solan Beer. It has been treated in the same way as that produced by other Breweries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government decide about increase or reduction in the number of liquor-shops on the report of its department or the views of the public are also taken into consideration ?

Minister : The decision is taken after ascertaining the views of the department and the public.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government decided to increase the number of liquor shops in Amritsar and Ludhiana on the report of its department or at the request of the public ?

Minister : As I have already submitted, both points of view are considered. So far as military needs are concerned, the number of liquor-shops has to be increased at their request.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : During the last Session of the Assembly the hon. Minister stated that as the Committee constituted by the Government reported that Beer had food value, it was exempted from prohibition.....

Mr. Speaker : Next question please.

REFUGEE CAMPS

***1638. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of refugee camps in the Punjab together with their total population at present ;
- (b) the total number of refugees receiving free ration from the Punjab Government ;
- (c) the total amount of expenditure incurred yearly thereon ;
- (d) whether the Government intends to liquidate these camps ; if so, when ;
- (e) whether the refugees, living in these camps at present will be provided with any other accommodation by the Government ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) 26 Relief Camps including Women Homes. The total population as reported on 18-2-50 was 1,09,709.

| | |
|--|-------|
| (b) (i) Jammu and Kashmir displaced persons | 3635 |
| (ii) Unattached women and children | 8375 |
| (iii) Unattached, infirm and aged persons and their Dependents | 1322 |
| Total | 13332 |

[Minister For Rehabilitation]

(c) Rs. 3,13,00,000/- in 1947-48, Rs. 4,40,00,000/- in 1948-49 and Rs. 1,80,00,000/- in the current year (up to January 1950.)

(d) Gratuitous relief in general camps has been liquidated. Mud huts have been constructed at the sites of the camps for provision of roofed shelter to the displaced persons. The question of closing down the camps does not arise.

(e) 13,170 mud huts will be completed by the end of April 1950. Besides these, 10,000 eight-marla plots will be made available to the displaced persons of the camps. They will be given a loan of Rs. 500/- per family for building *kothas* on these plots. This scheme will be completed during the summer.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government propose to make some arrangement for those persons too, who will not be able to get accommodation even after the construction of mud huts or the issue of 8 marla plots?

Minister : Nobody will be left without shelter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. Does the Government think that poor people living in the Camps will be able to purchase 8-Marla plots offered by the Government?

Minister. After the completion of this scheme, about ten thousand persons would still be left in the Refugee Camps. The Government will make arrangements for them also.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that only a small number of families would be able to avail of mud-huts? A large number of them might not be able to get them.

Minister : The Government has offered both the schemes. Those who can afford to pay money will be able to get mud-huts.

Shrimati Sita Devi. The hon. Minister has stated that there are eight thousand unattached women and children in the Camps. Has he taken only Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Camps into account? Are they living in some other Camps also?

Minister : This is the total number of unattached women and children living in Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Karnal and Rohtak Camps.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh. Under the quasi permanent allotment scheme the allottees will take possession of houses at present occupied by the landless tenants. Will some arrangement be made for these persons also?

✓ **Mr. Speaker.** Disallowed.

NEW HOSPITALS.

***1658. Shri Prabodh Chandra.** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of new Hospitals opened by the Government during the last two years ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi.

1947-48.

1. Provincial armed Police Hospital, Jullundur Cantt.
2. Secretariat Dispensary, Simla-2.
3. Women's section, Civil Hospital, Kalka, District Ambala.

1948-49.

1. Civil Dispensary at Dagshai.
2. Civil Dispensary, Summer Hill, Simla-W.
3. Canal Dispensary, Kiratpur, Hoshiarpur District.
4. Canal Dispensary, Anandpur, Hoshiarpur District.
5. Dental Clinic in the Ripon Hospital, Simla.
6. -do Civil Hospital, Jullundur.
7. -do V. J. Hospital, Amritsar.

In addition to the above, 2 rural dispensaries were also opened during the year 1948-49 viz one at Katni Kalan (District Ludhiana) and the other at Chak Sherwala (District Ferozepore). These dispensaries are administered by the District Boards concerned but Government paid a non-recurring grant of Rs. 3, 200/- for the equipment of each dispensary and have also undertaken to pay a recurring maintenance grant of Rs. 3, 000/- p. a. per dispensary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra. May I know why the Government opened no rural dispensaries in the year 1947-48 while it opened dispensaries in the urban areas like Kasauli and Simla etc. ?

Minister. Two rural dispensaries were opened in the year 1947-48.

Shri Prabodh Chandra. May I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that while the number of villages in the State is about twenty-five thousand, the number of new dispensaries opened is only two. Does the Government consider it sufficient ?

Minister : The number of villages is about fifteen thousand and not twenty five thousand as stated by the hon. Member. Any how that is by the way. In fact, we are trying to open as many dispensaries as we can. But we have to look to the limited finances of our State. As far as our intentions are concerned our desire is to have a dispensary for every village. But at present we can confine ourselves to what our financial conditions allow.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the Government not realise that while

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

on the one hand it is going to increase the abiana on the rural population by fifty percent on the other hand it is doing nothing by way of providing medical and other facilities to the rural population ?

Chief Minister : These are the figures for the years 1947-48 and 1948-49. I may tell the hon. Members that in the year 1949-50 eighteen new dispensaries have been opened in the villages.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Government is spending only about eighty thousand on medical aid that it provides to the villages whereas the amount of abiana that it expects is about sixty lakhs. Does the Government feel that the amount that it is spending on such medical facilities is commensurate with the amount that it receives from the people ?

Chief Minister : The increased rates of abiana will yield income only after 1st April 1950. Moreover this income is not to be spent on dispensaries only. There are other useful things to be done for the people. As regards medical aid I wish to state for the information of the hon. Members that our scheme is to provide one dispensary for hundred square miles of area and for about thirty thousand people for the present.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister has stated that he desires to have a dispensary for every village. Does the Government have any such scheme or even a scheme for providing a dispensary for a group of five villages? If so when does it intend giving it a practical shape ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that for the present we have the scheme of providing one dispensary for hundred square miles of area and for about thirty thousand of population.

Shrimati Sita Devi : When does the Government intend putting it into practice ?

Chief Minister : The policy has already been put into practice.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I ask the hon. Chief Minister whether any dispensary has been opened in whole of Ambala Division during the last year ?

Chief Minister : I think that the hon. Member is aware of the fact that Simla is in Ambala Division.

Mehra Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the dispensary at Katani Kalan in Ludhiana District was opened by the people themselves before partition and that it has been now taken over by the Government ? If so, does the Government intend recognising other dispensaries opened by the people before partition ?

Chief Minister : I assure the hon. Member that his suggestion will be considered and recognition will be given if found necessary.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the eighteen hospitals which he promised in his last year's budget speech for the District of Kangra have since been opened ?

Chief Minister : This has been done.

RELIEF TO THE SICK IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

***1659. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the amount per head per annum spent by Government for giving relief to the sick in all the Government Hospitals of the State ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : The time and labour involved in collecting information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

IRON QUOTA.

***1366. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of fabricator firms who were given iron quota for Agricultural implements, district wise ;

(b) the iron quota granted to each firm together with the number of implements sold by them ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table¹.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the number of persons to whom permits have been issued for making agricultural implements in Jullundur district is forty six while the number of such permits for the four Haryana Districts is only twenty one ? If so should we take it that agriculturists live in Jullundur District alone and not in other districts ? May I know the grounds on which this distinction is based ?

Minister : This depends upon the number of fabricators in each district. Where there are more fabricators, more permits have been given.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state why this distinction has been made in the allotment of iron quota ? There appears to be no ground for supposing that there are no fabricators in Haryana Districts.

Minister : The policy of the Government in this matter depends upon the fabricating capacity of the various firms.

1. Kept in the Library.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is this fabricating capacity more in Jullundur district ?

Minister : Yes.

Chief Minister : The policy of the Government is that iron quota is given to those who are doing this work. We cannot create new fabricator firms ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the refugees are given preference in the matter of allotment of iron quotas ? If so, why is it that the number of persons who have been given the quota in Haryana Districts is so small ?

Minister : Iron quota is given to such fabricators who are actually doing this work. Refugees are also given this quota. I am prepared to look into the cases, if any, who have not been given iron quota on their applying for the same. Such cases may be brought to our notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government prepared to go into the question of iron quotas and see that justice is done to the districts of Haryana ?

Chief Minister : The Government cannot fabricate fabricator firms themselves. Our policy as I have already stated is that those who know the job are given these quotas.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the majority of fabricators in the districts of Haryana Prant, did not fabricate articles due to non-availability of the material ? If so, did the Government consider the desirability of making proper arrangements for the supply of iron to these fabricators and make good the shortage in materials there to avoid inconvenience and any loss to them ?

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend should know that if the fabricators sometimes do not get the materials in time, it is not due to the faulty arrangements on the part of the Government. The procedure for obtaining the materials is like this. A permit for a specific amount of steel is issued to a fabricator, and he presents it to the dealer who is further dependent upon the Tatas for supply of iron goods. The dealers indent the goods and distribute them among the fabricators after the receipt of the same. If the material comes in time, the fabricator also gets his quota in time otherwise in the case of delay, he, too, has to wait, or he gets a part of his quota for the time being. That is why a fabricator is sometimes unable to manufacture articles for which steel quota is given to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon Chief Minister aware that so far as the availability of material is concerned, almost all the fabricators o

Jullundur get it and manufacture articles for which they receive their quotas. But as regards fabricators of the districts in Haryana, they do not get the materials and hence fail to fabricate the necessary goods. In view of this may I know whether Government are prepared to take steps to ensure supply of materials to the fabricators to avoid any inconvenience to them ?

Chief Minister : As I have already stated, inconvenience is caused only when the consignment reaches the dealer late, otherwise the dealer does not delay the distribution of materials.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know whether any complaint has been received from the people of Haryana that the agricultural implements are not available there?

Chief Minister : No.

Thakur Dalip Singh : May I know whether any quota of iron has been given to any firm in the Kangra district for the purpose of manufacturing agricultural implements?

Chief Minister: This information could be found in the statement laid on the table.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is the hon. Minister aware that certain fabricators in Hissar had to go to Jullundur with a view to obtaining the materials?

Chief Minister: Government cannot compel the fabricators to obtain their quotas from the dealers of their ilaqa. The stock Holders Association has got a list of dealers in different categories like a, b and c. Permits are issued to the quota holders according to the categories of dealers, to which they belong. The quota holders then present their permits to the dealer who delivers them the goods.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether Government have ever ascertained the requirements of a district regarding agricultural implements etc., through the department concerned.

Minister: The requirements of a district for this purpose are received by the Extra Assistant Director of Industries in that district.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Is it a fact that a large number of lands in the Jullundur district are chahi lands and that is why the number of fabricators who fabricate agricultural implements and have been granted the permits of iron, is great ?

Minister: Yes, the hon. Member's information is correct.

Sardar Kabul Singh: May I know the number of Persian wheels in Hissar district?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : The number is very large. In view of the fact that the fabricators in Hissar, who had received their quota of iron, had not started their work, may I know whether this is due to any laxity on their part or due to the non-availability of materials?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it the intention of the Government to keep in view the interests of the agriculturists while giving quotas to the fabricators for the manufacture of agricultural implements?

Minister : This question does not arise. The quotas are to be given to the fabricators and not to the agriculturists.

Chief Minister : The registered rolling mills cannot get the quota.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether in a certain ilaqa an unregistered rolling mill can get quota of iron on application if there is no fabricator in that ilaqa?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since some of the fabricators in Hissar who have been granted permits for iron, have not manufactured anything, may I know whether Government have any intention to arrange for the supply of such materials as are needed for the fabricators of Hissar?

Minister : It has already been replied that Government cannot fabricate the fabricators. Those fabricators who have not manufactured anything, will lose their quotas.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It has been stated that there are 2 fabricators in Gurgaon 5 in Rohtak and 6 in Hissar. May I know whether the small number of fabricators is due to the fact that only a small number of applications were received from these districts or that there were some other reasons for that?

Minister : Yes, the number of applicants was small.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Minister sure of what he has stated?

Minister : Why suspicion has arisen in the mind of my hon. Friend that I am saying something of which I am not sure (*Laughter*).

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of fixing the number of fabricators in each district?

Minister : If the suggestion is accepted will the hon. Member tell

me where from will the fabricators be brought? In this way, at certain places fabricators will not be forthcoming.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether Government have made an attempt to instruct the district authorities not to call applications for the grant of quota of iron, more than the number of permits to be issued?

Minister: Applications are not called for the grant of quotas. The fabricators themselves put in applications and the same are considered.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether it is a fact that the iron fabricators of Hissar have failed to fabricate anything because of right type of men, were denied the necessary permits of quota of iron and the people not in this trade were given the quota out of favouritism?

✓**Mr. Speaker:** No reflection please. Disallowed.

BLACK MARKETERS.

***1642. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the total number of black marketers who have been arrested and convicted in the State so far;

(b) the nature of punishment awarded to each one of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (a) Arrested 1747; Convicted 1177.

(b) 840 sentenced to fine, 311 to imprisonment and 26 to imprisonment with fine.

Fine ranging from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 1,000/- and imprisonment ranging from 1 day to 2 years.

Detailed information will take time not commensurate with labour.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether any persons were apprehended in the steel scandal case?

Chief Minister : No steel case has so far been decided.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION IN SERVICES.

***1445. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.]

(a) whether any communal proportion is kept in view in services at the time of recruitment ; if so, in which department and what is the proportion ;

(b) when does the Government intend to do away with it ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Law Department of the Government have reviewed the position in the light of provisions of the Constitution of India and have advised that the Constitution guarantees equality of opportunity in matters of public employment, prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, but provides reservation of appointments for back-ward classes. The matter, however, is still under the consideration of Government.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS.

***1446. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the original and the reduced strength, districtwise, of the National Volunteer Corps ;

(b) the saving out of the budgeted sum of money for this item ;

(c) whether the Government is satisfied with the working of the N. V. C. and whether it has fulfilled its object ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The original and the reduced, strength, district-wise, of the National Volunteer corps is given below :—

| Name of the district | Original strength | Reduced strength |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Amritsar | 1200 | 674 |
| Ferozepur | 1200 | 686 |
| Gurdaspore | 1000 | 412 |
| Jullundur | 1200 | 333 |
| Hoshiarpur | 1000 | 345 |
| Kangra | 1000 | 322 |
| Ludhiana | 1200 | 368 |
| Ambala | 1000 | 482 |
| Karnal | 1000 | 575 |
| Rohtak | 1000 | 379 |
| Hissar | 1000 | 460 |
| Gurgaon | 1000 | 193 |
| Simla | 200 | 138 |
| Total. | 13000 | 5667 |

(b) A sum of about Rs. 25,00,000/- has been saved on this account during 1949-50 out of the budget allotments of Rs. 45,26,510/-.

(c) Shortly after partition the strength of Police had been badly weakened as the result of the departure of Muslim Constabulary and Officers. The N. V. C. was raised to help the Police in restoring law and order. Their work in this connection was quite praiseworthy and many of its personnel suffered casualties in opposing criminal elements.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the strength of N. V. C. has been reduced according to some set principle ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that at present. However I may state for the information of the hon. Member that the reduction was made according to the requirements.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has N. V. C. been of any help to police ? Have any reports been submitted to the Government by the Police Officials to the effect that their work in this connection was praiseworthy ?

Chief Minister : It is on the basis of the reports of the police officers that the Government has made such a statement.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that generally the Superintendents of police have submitted reports to the Government to the effect that N. V. C. rendered praiseworthy service and that they were of great help to them ?

Chief Minister : Government received the reports about such cases in which they had done good work and it was on that basis that Government arrived at this conclusion that their work was praiseworthy.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has Government received any report from the police officers to the effect that they were not doing any work ?

Chief Minister : Government received good reports about some cases. How could it ignore the good work done by them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the nature of the reports submitted by the police officers ?

Chief Minister : Government has made this reply after studying the reports. The Inspector General of Police sent the reports about the work done by the N. V. C. to the Minister-In-Charge who also went through these reports. Hence the praiseworthy work done in this connection by the N. V. C.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Good reports might have been submitted

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.]

about certain cases. I want to know the nature of the reports as a whole. Is it a fact that generally the District Superintendents and other high officials of police have submitted reports to the Government to the effect that they were disappointed with the work of the N. V. C. ?

Chief Minister : These officers have reported that their work in this connection was quite praiseworthy.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was this work praiseworthy as a whole ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether the Government is aware that the arms given to N. V. Cs. were misused and in one instance in village Chautala, district Hissar where such arms were used by some members of the N. V. C. against their rival party in the village ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice I shall find out for him but ordinarily any one who misuses his arms is hauled.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the number of the N. V. Cs. who have committed offences, is very large ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that Government have received sufficient reports to the effect that the personnel of N. V. C. have, while discharging their duties, committed various offences ?

Chief Minister : I require notice. I would also request the hon. Member that while giving notice he should please explain as to what he means by "sufficient."

HOUSE RENT TO POLICE OFFICERS.

***1524. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state that the rates of house rent fixed for Foot Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police serving in the urban and rural areas respectively during the year 1950-51 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Rates of house rent allowance for Police Officers and men are prescribed in Rule 10.76 of the Punjab Police Rules Volume I.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether any houses are available on rent at Rs. 2/- or 3/- per month in the urban areas ?

Chief Minister : I do not know whether houses are available on rent at Rs. 2/- or Rs. 3/- per month. It is not necessary that house rent allowed to Government Servants should cover the full amount of the rent paid by the officials.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In the light of the hon. Chief Minister's reply to the effect that it is not known whether houses can be had on rent at the rate

of Rs. 2/- or 3/- per month, May I know if he has ever thought that houses cannot be had on rent at Rs.2/- or Rs.3/- per month?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: In view of the fact that Superintendents of Police who already draw high salaries are given free furnished houses and that the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors draw Rs. 15 or/- Rs. 16/- as their house rent, may I know the reasons for such a discrepancy?

Chief Minister . It is only a part of the house rent.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

USE OF FIRE-ARMS IN CRIME.

452. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of crimes of violence and dacoity during the year 1949 in the district of Amritsar, in which fire arms were used ;
- (b) the number of the fire arms so used which were licenced and the number of those which were of the prohibited bore;
- (c) the number of licenced fire arms used in fights against the police and the number of those used thus of the prohibited bore;
- (d) the number of cases in which it has come merely to the notice of the police, and the number of cases in which it has been proved that the prohibited bore ammunition used against the police in the un-licenced fire arms, came from the owners of the licenced prohibited bore weapons;
- (e) the names of the criminals using this prohibited bore ammunition coming from the owners of the licenced prohibited bore weapons and the names of such owners who gave this ammunition to the criminals ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 80 (Murders—29, Dacoities—35, Attempt to murder—11 Culpable homicide—1 and robberies—4).

(b) Seven fire-arms used were licenced and two .303 rifles were of prohibited bore.

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

(e) Nil.

OUTLET NO. 42600/L BUTANA BRANCH

453. Chaudhri Samar Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the area attached to outlet No.42600/L Butana Branch was increased;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the size of the outlet has since been decreased; if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) what action, if any, has the Government taken on the several representations made by the zamindars affected by the above referred to changes?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) No. The size of the outlet was actually increased in proportion to the additional area added.

(c) Two applications of the zamindars alleging wrong construction of the outlet are under investigation. If it is found that there is any mistake in the construction of the outlet it will be set right at once.

GOHANA PANIPAT ROAD.

454. Chaudhri Samar Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Work be pleased to state whether the work of construction on Gohana-Panipat Road has been stopped after constructing some culverts only; if so, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : The work on Gohana-Panipat Road has not been stopped. It will be completed gradually as funds permit.

GOVERNMENT OWNED TRUCKS LYING AT JULLUNDUR

455. Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state the action Government intends to take in connection with trucks lying idle in front of the Civil Secretariat building at Jullundur for the last two years?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : The Government intend to utilize these vehicles for operating services on routes which are to be taken over by the Government and for running local bus services. It may also be added that all the chassis are not lying there for the last two years; a few of them were received as recently as 23/1/1950.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

HUNGER STRIKE IN HOSHIARPUR COLLEGE

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Under the Rules, I regret I cannot allow the hon. Member to move his motion.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, the matter is of urgent public importance.

Chief Minister : I rise to a point of order. It is a convention that during the Budget session, no adjournment motion is allowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, in view of the extraordinary conditions under which I had to come all the way from Simla-East, I request you to please relax the rule laying down that the notice should be given half an hour before the commencement of a sitting.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The Appropriation Bill is coming up on the 27th March and the hon. Member can discuss all these things on that day.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The situation is very delicate and requires immediate action and 27th is a long way off.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** On the last day of the voting on demands no adjournment motion can be brought forward. The hon. Member has brought the fact of the hunger strike to the notice of the House and that is sufficient.

Demands for Grants

LAND REVENUE

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65, 54, 000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65, 54, 000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Land Revenue.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Sir, when I went through the details of this demand for grant, I was surprised to find that the Congress Government has done practically nothing in

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fulfilment of its pledges to improve the hard lot of poor zamindars. Before attainment of independence the Congress had made many high sounding promises to zamindars that in case the Congress came into power it would make assessment of land revenue on the basis of income tax but I feel sorry to say that no such proposal has received any consideration at the hands of the Government. It shows that the party in power has either forgotten all its pledges or has failed to do anything in fulfilment of these pledges. In the case of non-agriculturists, the income of rupees three thousand is exempt from income tax. The same principle should be made to apply to the agricultural income and the agriculturists' portion of income should also be exempted from the assessment of land revenue so that they may also heave a sigh of relief. I think the Government is doing great injustice to the zamindars in the matter of assessment of land revenue. It is not understandable why, while the Government one exempts the income of rupees three thousand from levy of income tax, it denies the same benefit to the people who grow food and toil during the hot summer day and also during cold and bleak days of winter. Their income of produce from even one marla of land is not exempt from the assessment of land revenue. It is grave injustice to them. There is no reason why the Government should accord different treatment to different sections of people in a free country in the matter of taxation. There should be no disparity in the matter of taxation between the urbanites and the ruralites. It is really strange that the Government should exempt the income of the urban people up to the limit of Rs. 3,000 and that the ruralites should not be remitted land revenue of even half a marla. I would, therefore, ask the Government that the pledges it had taken before coming into power should be implemented in true spirit. It should not remain under the impression that the people are so foolish as to conveniently forget its promises. The Government should remember that nothing in this world is permanent and they cannot remain in power for all time to come.

राज गये राखण गये जा के बहु परिचार

ਰਾਜ ਗਿਓ ਰਾਖਣ ਗਿਓ ਜਾ ਕੇ ਬਹੁ ਪਰਵਾਰ

It will not augur well for the Government if it perpetrates injustice on the people. Equity and justice demand that as a portion of income is exempt from the levy of income tax similarly some portion of agricultural income should also be exempt from the assessment of land revenue.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. I invite your attention to Rule 144 according to which the discussion must be confined to administrative matters for which Government is responsible and not deal with matters regarding legislation. No discussion of this matter can be made on this demand unless the Land Revenue Act is modified. The hon. Member should, therefore, confine his discussion to administrative matters only.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I submit to the point raised by the hon. Chief Minister.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Has the objection raised by the Chief Minister been accepted by the Chair ? The point that Sardar Sajjan Singh is developing does not require any legislation.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It depends upon the Member to develop his point in such a way that it does not infringe any rule.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I would say that the Government is an organisation for doing service to the people and they naturally expect that even-handed justice should be shown to them. The foundation of law is based on justice. So far as the taxation policy of the Government is concerned, I wish to submit that it should be uniform in the case of all sections of population. In this connection, it is very necessary first of all to alter the principles governing the levying of land revenue. It is a very old complaint of the peasants, dating back to the British regime, that the Government metes out to them step-motherly treatment. Even now they feel that there is no difference in the treatment of the Government towards them. It is the duty of the Government to attend to every legitimate grievance of theirs and to try its utmost to redress it, or in the alternative to convince them that their complaint is unreasonable. Taxes constitute the very foundation of a Government and it is absolutely essential for it to examine carefully its tax-structure and to see as to how it affects the various sections of the population and to assure that no class has to bear an unduly heavy burden of taxes. In other words the Government has to see that the burden of taxation is distributed among all its people on a fair and equitable basis.

Now I have to refer to another matter. Our Government has not so far done anything to ameliorate the condition of the humble low-paid staff of its administration, for instance, the chaprasis and the jamadars. Their emoluments are so meagre that they are forced to kill their sense of self-respect and do menial work such as cleansing of utensils and attending on the children of their officers at the residence of the latter. It is a matter for shame that the Government should give them a remuneration with which they can hardly get enough food for themselves, not to speak of feeding their children. When their plight is such, how can the Government expect them to discharge their duties honestly and conscientiously ? Again, while the Ministers are allowed to draw Rs.331 per mensem in lieu of house rent, the House Rent Allowance admissible to chaprasis is of not more than Rs. two or three per mensem. Seeing such a state of affairs, I am constrained to remark that the manner in which the pay-scales of its subordinate employees have been fixed by the Government is wholly based on injustice and inequity and the Government is in this matter behaving in a most inhuman way.

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Sir, you will be surprised to hear that while the A.D.Cs and other big officers are getting Rs.200 p.m. or so as special pay in addition to their salaries, the annual increment of these poor employees is just eight annas ! What I want to stress is that there should not be such a wide disparity in the scales of pay of the various employees of the Government, just as the emoluments of the Financial Commissioner are so disproportionately high as compared with remuneration of his peon, as to be in the ratio of 1 to 140. Similar is the condition of the patwaris who form the back-bone of the revenue administration. Their salary is so meagre that they have no other alternative but to resort to questionable means in order to supplement it; for instance, they charge Rs.4/- from every zamindar who goes to them to get 'Khasra' number' in respect of some land. They are in fact forced to resort to such practices in order to be able to earn enough to feed their children. What else can they do when their salaries are so inadequate ? They have to make money somehow or the other. And the Government doesn't care a hang about it, as its work is not suffering. Its indifference reminds me of the Punjabi couplet :-

कोई मरे ते कोई जीवे सुयरा घोल पतासे पीवे ।

ਕੋਈ ਮਰੇ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਜੀਵੇ ਸੁਧਰਾ ਘੋਲ ਪਤਾਸੇ ਪੀਵੇ ।

What I mean to say is that the Government doesn't care how and where-by the patwaris live, despite the fact that they are entrusted with so many responsibilities under the present system. Persons who have no responsibility to discharge are getting handsome salaries and are leading a life of comfort and luxury while those who are burdened with so many responsibilities are not getting even a living wage. Besides this, there is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. Out of the patwaris of the Punjab who had lately gone on a general strike, barring the patwaris of Amritsar district, all others had been reinstated and given arrears of pay. It is really incomprehensible as to why the patwaris of Amritsar district have been treated differently in this matter. It is true that they were also later on reinstated but it is strange that they have not been so far allowed to draw arrears of pay due to them in respect of the period in which they were absent from duty. So far as my knowledge goes, patwaris of all other districts have been allowed to draw pay of this period. Now, I cite an instance to show the way in which this Government is functioning. A patwari of Tehsil Patti, Rangi Ram, by name, while speaking at a meeting of the Congress party, had stated that everyday the patwaris were accused of accepting bribes but nobody cared to have notice of the fact that almost every day they received chits from the Ministers, directing them to help such and such person in the allotment of such and such land, as the person in question happened to be their man. For not hesitating to speak the plain truth, this poor fellow was suspended from service on 19th August, 1943, and was not served with a charge-sheet for one and a half years. Now that he has been reinstated, he has not

been given a single pie out of the arrears of pay due to him in respect of the period of suspension, inspite of the fact that there is a provision in the rules of the Revenue Department that half the pay is allowed during the period of suspension to every employee who is suspended.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to the scheme of consolidation of holdings. I am well aware of this fact that one patwari can cope with the consolidation work of at the most 500 acres of land. The total area of land which is to be brought under the consolidation scheme is nearly one crore and twenty lakh acres. If the work in connection with the consolidation scheme is proposed to be executed with the help of the existing staff, I think it will not be possible to finish it even in a period of 50 years. Keeping in view the importance of the issue, the Government should appoint the maximum possible staff for this purpose.

In the end, I would again remind the Government that if nothing was done to improve the lot of the low paid employees, and the scales of pay continued to be as disproportionate as before, conditions analogous to those of China, would be created here, too. If the people do not get even enough to make both ends meet, they will surely become communists. Holding the banner of Chiang Kai Shek, using the arms supplied by the Americans, people will go on joining the communists. This story will in that case be repeated here.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, amendment moved.

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the land Revenue Demand which is under discussion relates to the poor population of the State which lives in villages and earns its living by tilling the soil. The most important item under this Demand which has an immediate effect on these people is the consolidation of land holdings and this year a sum of rupees fourteen lakhs has been provided for this work. This consolidation has been the subject of discussion a number of times in this House and there has been a complete unanimity on this point among all hon. Members even including those who have always made it a point to oppose everything. At this stage I do not understand the reason why the decision is not being implemented. The work of consolidation of holdings is very essential and suitable staff is required to do it but I fail to find any scheme in this demand which would provide for a staff with the requisite qualifications. I may tell the Government that it will not be able to convince the public by saying that work was not possible as staff was not available, such an argument will not pass muster and want of planning in this direction may have disastrous consequences. On the one hand the Government wishes to introduce mechanised form of cultivation and embark on a

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campaign of boring tube wells and on the other it is not taking any effective step to bring about consolidation. In my opinion schemes of mechanical cultivation and tube wells cannot bear any fruit unless and until the consolidation work is put through. But unfortunately the speed with which this work has begun will take nothing short of forty or fifty years to accomplish it and the natural result would be that the State and its people will be made to suffer beyond all measures. In these circumstances I would request the hon. Minister concerned that he should give more attention to the organizational side of this scheme. As for the expenditure, I can assure him and some of my hon. Friends representing the rural areas have already stated, that people themselves are prepared to bear it. They can't undertake the organizational work and the Government has got to do it for them. But it is strange that the Government has not given any plan for the training of patwaris, the inspectors and other officials. Such a state of affairs is far from being satisfactory as the public expects that a decision which has been unanimously taken in this House should be put into effect without any delay.

The second thing which I wish to place before the House is that on page 69 of the Budget, there is an item 'District Charges,' which shows an increase from rupees 35 lakhs to rupees 48 lakhs. At any rate I am not aware of the conditions which have necessitated an additional expenditure of rupees thirteen lakhs on District Charges. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to take the House into confidence and explain the reasons for this enormous increase. I think that there was no necessity of additional expenditure particularly when the staff required was not wanted for any technical work. For routine work arrangements could be made by which no extra expense would have been necessary. We cannot afford to waste huge sum of rupees thirteen lakhs and go on increasing the burden of taxation on the rural people who are already groaning under its weight.

Thirdly I wish to tell the Government that our present land records are in a miserable condition. Before partition the Patwaris and Girdawar kanongos who worked in the East Punjab, now known as the Punjab State were almost all Muslims. After they have gone away nobody appears to have cared for Jamabandis and Khasra girdawaries and they are lying incomplete. Consequently great inconvenience is being felt by the zamindars as according to a Punjabi saying Patwari is the mother of land. Steps should, therefore, be taken to make the land records up-to-date.

My fourth suggestion concerns the Land Records Department. I am very sorry to say that this department which is so essential for our administrative set up is not receiving the attention it deserves.

Some time back an effort was made to make it up-to-date by entrusting it to an officer with some imagination but unfortunately no improvement appears to have been effected. This department has got to look after the training of the patwaris and other service matters and unless and until it is properly strengthened, I think we will not be able to put an end to strikes by the patwaris and put our consolidation scheme into effect.

I wish to make a suggestion regarding the training of the Patwaris. We should recast our system of education in such a way that just as other subjects like Geography, History, Political Science and Economics are taught to the students, Patwaris' work should also form one of the subjects in the middle standard. In this manner every student will learn Patwaris' work. Similarly, it can be made a compulsory subject for vernacular teachers. It can be taught to them by holding refresher courses for two or three months in a year. It is essential to do so because this task is not so difficult as some people think. This work will become very easy if made a regular subject. Ignorance about it is sometimes exploited by the Patwaris. If a large number of people learn it, an alternate arrangement will be available to the Government and the Patwaris will not be able to dictate terms. If every person who passes the Middle examination and every vernacular teacher learns this work, there will be no possibility of any crisis in this direction. People will become acquainted with this work and the corruption prevalent in this department will disappear to a large extent. The Government had some such scheme under consideration and I request the hon. Minister to enlighten the House about the progress made in that connection. The Education Department has accepted the principle of inclusion of this subject in the ordinary curriculum. If this is done, one of the main difficulties will be obviated and corruption will also decrease. The public will also come to know about their rights in respect of land. As the hon. Minister for Revenue is in charge of Education also, I hope that he will bring about the necessary co-ordination.

Then, Sir my hon Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh made a suggestion that land revenue should be based on the same system on which income-tax is charged. This is an ideal which every Government should try to achieve. In view of the limited financial resources of the Government, I do not wish to put it in an awkward position. I realise that it would not be possible for it to make any substantial reduction in land revenue. When the Government thinks of imposing more taxes, it should remember the demand of the general public that the entire structure of land revenue system should be recast on the basis of income-tax. Whenever a Land Revenue or Finance Committee considers some taxation proposal, it should bear this demand in mind.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the rates of Land Revenue. It is really astonishing that the chahi-rate should be so high. It can't be under-

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stood why a person who digs wells at his own expense and works it with the help of his cattle should be asked to pay such a high rate of land revenue. This matter demands early attention of the Government. While not forgetting to achieve the ultimate goal of recasting the land revenue system on the basis of income-tax, the Government should take immediate steps to reduce the chahi rate. I desire this matter to be taken up at once because I feel that the whole work of achieving the suggested ideal is likely to take long. I am referring to these matters because I have noticed that whenever one complains of the burden of heavy taxes on the ruralites, various figures are quoted to show that these people earned huge sums of money by growing Narma cotton or some other crop. One who talks in that manner completely ignores the hardships which the kisans have to undergo in the winter months of Poh and Magh. We should not forget that they have to do very hard work. Instead of providing them facilities, it is said that they made one crore or more from cotton crop. If in the matter of assessment of land revenue, the Government adopts the basis of income-tax, we would be prepared to pay higher rates for increased production. At this stage, however, in view of the difficult financial position of the Government, it cannot be expected to act in this manner. In my opinion, it is devoid of imagination. The demand for reduction of chahirate is very old but no satisfactory decision has been made by the Government. While on the one hand, the Government is thinking of making land-holdings economic and also contemplates changes in the land-tenure system, it is not proper to stick to an altogether out-of-date system in the case of land-revenue. The zamindars are not in a position to bear heavier liabilities. An other problem about which there is a general talk these days is the landlord-tenant dispute. As a matter of fact this problem is not so acute in Punjab as it is in other States of India. There are some persons who wish to make capital out of it. Their habit is to hit upon any problem and start an agitation in the rural areas. So in this matter also they cannot help it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not discuss this point at length as we have got a resolution on this subject which is to be discussed in the House.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : It is not certain whether it will come up or not.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Anyhow, I am winding up, Sir, in a minute. I was saying that such an agitation has much to do with the landlord-tenant dispute in the State. The problem puts a heavy strain on the land revenue establishment. As a result of this the State stands to lose. On the other side the tenants also don't derive any advantage out of it. In my opinion such questions should not be raised at this time. As a matter of fact there are no landlords worth the name in the State of Punjab. We have still to make zamindars. Phakra and Nangal Projects are still on their way to completion.

The prosperity of Punjab is linked with them. At present, the real zamindars do not exist in this State. I therefore appeal to the Government and the people to pay more attention to more important matters. One of such matters of importance is the drive against corruption in the Revenue Department. This matter concerns a large number of people and, in fact the progress of our schemes can only be achieved if we take steps to remove corruption. So in order to purify the administration of the Revenue Department a vigorous drive should be launched. It is only by such steps and actions on the part of the Government that a real service to the people can be rendered.

Sardar Shriv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the hardships and inconvenience of the people living in rural areas who have to deal with the patwaris. Of course, I do realise the difficulties of the Patwaris also. They have to work in the villages as well as at the tehsil head-quarters. It is for the Government to think out ways and means by which their work may be so adjusted that the villagers may not find any difficulty in the matters like getting of documents and pedigree tables from the Patwaris in times of need. Such rules should be framed as may decrease the hardships of the people to the minimum in such matters. But at present I regret to note that the villagers are put to a lot of inconvenience in matters of getting documents etc. For instance some of the farmers who stand in need of documents from the Patwaris have to follow them not for two or three months but for five or six years and still they are sometimes unable to procure them. In pre-emption cases there is no limit to which the patwaris can create difficulties in the way of the poor farmers. They charge fees at exorbitant rates from these ignorant persons. It is, of course, a matter of relief that the Government has increased the rates of salaries of the Patwaris and thus tried to give them a fair treatment. General rise in the prices of commodities has hit these people and it is a matter of satisfaction that the Government has realised this and tried to meet their demands. But I wish to draw the attention of the Members to the fact that no facilities have been provided for the villagers in matters to which I have made a reference above. I would like to stress the importance of minimising the hardships of the farmers. Rules should be so framed that when any person submits an application to the Tehsildar or the Kanoongo it should be dealt with in ten or fifteen days at the most. If it be urgent not more than two or three days should be taken. Of course at present there is a provision to the effect that a person can get the documents from the tehsil headquarter but in most of the cases such documents cannot serve the purposes of the applicants. Efforts should be made to remove this difficulty.

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Another point to which Sardar Swaran Singh has also referred is about *Khasra Girdawari*. In this connection I wish to tell the hon. Members that such *Khasra Girdawari* is not done at the spot. What the officers do is that they sit in the village and without going to the spot they prepare their papers. This practice is the source of corruption in many cases. If proper supervision is carried out in the matter of entries in the records many of the evil practices will vanish and the farmers will be saved from a good deal of hardship. At present on account of the fact that a large number of Patwaris are busy in rehabilitation work, the work of entries and mutations is in arrears. My suggestion is that the Tehsildars should be instructed to make a rigid supervision as far as this work is concerned so that there may be no chances of corruption in this matter. I feel that the Patwaris ought to be well paid so that they may rise above corruption. If they are given adequate salaries and they, as a result of this, begin to work honestly, the relations between farmers and Patwaris can improve. Under the new Panchayat Act the Panchayats will be empowered to exercise control over the Patwaris. This might lead to good results.

One thing more to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the scheme of consolidation of holdings. During the current year a sum of Rs. 14 lakhs is proposed to be spent on it. Here I don't wish to dwell at length on the importance of this scheme. Suffice it to say that the scheme is specially useful to the small land holders and it can help to a large extent the Grow More Food Campaign as well. The scheme was framed about a year back but so far it has not been put into practice as far as I know. I wish to submit to the Government that if it desires to take practical steps in this matter, about fourteen Kanoogos and sixty or seventy Patwaris are required to start with. As far as the financial aspect of this useful scheme is concerned I don't think there can be any objection to it. Even the farmers can make sacrifice by giving two or three rupees per *Ghumaon*. They will be prepared to pay for the expenses of such a beneficial scheme. The additional staff that has been kept for it cannot be said to be sufficient for the requirements. So long as this scheme does not come into full swing people will feel that they are not having full advantages out of the recently achieved independence. In order to improve the conditions of our peasantry top priority should be given to this matter. In this connection it will not be out of place to suggest that the Agriculture Department and the Co-operative Department should be fully utilized on this work. If we launch this drive in the spirit of launching a movement the condition of the farmer will improve and Grow More Food Campaign will get an additional momentum.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*):
Sir, I wish to make a few observations on two or three important matters. Yesterday some of my hon. Friends remarked that there was nothing wrong in

burdening the zamindars with additional taxes. They said that abiana and land revenue should be further enhanced and this imposition would not be unjust. Sir, through you I wish to remind the hon. Chief Minister of those times when he used to lead the Opposition in the legislatures of previous Governments and was eloquent over the question of abolition of chahi rates. Well, Sir, this is a question which has a history behind it. My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh threw a flood of light on this point. I come from that very ilaqa the people of which entirely depend upon well irrigation and have to pay thousands of rupees in the form of chahi rates. It will not be out of place to mention here that before partition there were 45 lakhs of wells in the Joint Punjab and thus a large amount of money was realised from the poor zamindars as chahi rates. These were imposed by the British Government and so long as the Unionist Party remained in Opposition, it agitated against this levy. You will remember, Sir, that Sir Sikander Hyat and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram would harangue to the public that there was no justification for the imposition of the chahi rates by the Government because the latter had done nothing to irrigate the lands of Zamindars. It was the zamindars who sunk the wells with their own money and worked hard to irrigate their lands and therefore Government had no right to levy the chahi rates. But when the Unionist Party came into power, they found that they would have to lose a substantial amount if they abolished the chahi rates; so they forgot all their tall talk and slept over the matter and discouraged the Members from raising any voice against this imposition. But then Congressmen vehemently condemned the levy of chahi rates. They held out high hopes to the zamindars about the abolition of these chahi rates. They also advanced the same arguments which the Unionist Members used to adduce in favour of doing away with the chahi rates. They accused the Sikander Government of having backed out of their promises and making common cause with the Britishers. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that Chaudhri Sahib Ram brought forward a resolution recommending the abolition of chahi rates but the Unionist Party resisted it tooth and nail despite the fact that they shed crocodile tears at the miserable plight of the poor zamindars. After the elections of 1946, people laid great expectations on the failure of the Unionist Party and the success of the Congress party. But things did not go ahead. Now that the Congress Government is holding the reins of office, may I ask the hon. Minister to announce after consulting the Chief Minister whether the imposition of chahi rates is justified or not. My submission is that if the Government is not in a position to abolish them, it should at least admit that this is an improper tax on the zamindars and we shall be satisfied that the Government feels our difficulty. In this connection, I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhi's remarks. At one time he said that the Prime Minister of India should be an illiterate man. The object was that he could properly feel for the dumb and illiterate millions of

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India's rural people. Then I may point out why the Grow More Food campaign is not meeting with the same success which it should in spite of the fact that crores of rupees are being spent on it. The fact of the matter is that the zamindars are afraid of sinking wells at their own cost because they know that Government would levy chahi rates on their well-irrigated lands. So I would submit even at the risk of repetition that Government should abolish this tax if it considers it in its heart of hearts that it is an improper tax. If it cannot do so, it should at least make an admission to this effect.

Then I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Section 150 of the Land Revenue Act. It enjoins the Government to see that any encroachment made by the zamindars on the village roads should be set right. They should be removed under orders of the Government or the officers of the Revenue Department. Since the hon. Minister for Revenue belongs to the rural areas, I expect that he would look into the matter. As a result of these encroachments, the water gets collected in that part of the road and it becomes impassable. Consequently—the way is blocked; for months end the produce of the zamindars cannot reach the market. Besides it becomes difficult for the villagers to go from one village to the other on account of the obstacles created by the encroachments. It will not be out of place to mention here that conditions prevailing in China are being created in India also. In China army goes to realise the land revenue. And here in this State an army of officials goes to the zamindars for realisation of dues from them. These officers include patwaris, qanungos, girdawars, tehsildars, revenue assistants etc. Apart from this, Deputy Commissioners and even hon. Ministers visit the rural areas in their cars but nobody cares to set these roads right on which encroachments have been made. Not only this, they have not cared to get these roads widened. These roads are becoming narrower and narrower on account of these encroachments. I am sure Government will not have to spend even a pie on widening these roads. It is only required to issue orders to the zamindars who are guilty of making encroachments. I think if the Zamindars know that action will be taken against them, then they will desist from making such encroachments. I may tell the Government that the widening of roads is most essential for the life of the villages. So if the hon. Minister who is a Zamindar himself sees to the accomplishment of this task, he would earn the goodwill and commendation of the zamindars.

Then, Sir, the treatment of departmental officers towards the zamindars is very atrocious. They have absolutely no sympathy for them. The zamindars are put to great hardship by them. They are asked to be present at a certain place where the revenue assistant will hold his court for purposes of effecting certain mutations of land in revenue papers. If the poor zamindars fail to comply with the orders of the tehsildars, they are fined. But when they reach the place where the revenue assistant is expected to hold the court, they

have to wait and wait till evening as the revenue assistant does not usually turn up. Since such places are far removed from cities, poor zamindars have to go without meals, as there are no restaurants where they can take something to eat. But the pity of it is that in the evening they receive the information that the revenue assistant would be coming after two days. The disappointment of the zamindars can be more imagined than stated. I am constrained to remark that the attitude of the officials towards the zamindars is that of total indifference. They are more domineering than even the hon. Ministers. I feel that something is wrong with them. Poor people who cover long distances in connection with the entries about mutations of land in the revenue records are made to wait for days together by the officers of this department. They are put to a lot of inconveniences. These officers cause unnecessary delay in dealing with the cases. They do not make the necessary corrections unless and until their palms are greased. The girdawar-qanungos act as middle men and thus quench their thirst by demanding more and more money from poor zamindars for themselves as well as the tehsildars. In almost every district ten to twenty such cases are lying pending in the courts of the Deputy Commissioners and no efforts whatsoever are made to deal with them. The poor zamindars approach the girdawar qanungos in connection with the entries about mutations of land in the revenue records and they invariably try to keep them away without any rhyme or reason. These are the conditions under which the poor people in the rural areas are living at present in our State. I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards this matter and issue orders to all the Deputy Commissioners to submit their reports to the effect whether the tehsildars reach the villages in time in connection with the work of khasra-girdawaris. I would also request him to enquire as to how many such cases are still pending for disposal. If this work is entrusted to the C. I. D. to make the necessary enquiries, I am sure, the hon. Minister would judge for himself how poor zamindars are being oppressed without any rhyme or reason. (*Interruptions*) I am making all these submissions in the interests of the State as a whole. In the end, I would request the Government to widen the kacha routes in the villages for the convenience of the villagers. At the same time, I would once again request the Government to abolish the chahi rates. I have every hope that the hon. Minister will make an announcement that chahi rates would henceforth be abolished and that the zamindars would not be put to any inconvenience, so far as the entries about mutations of land in the revenue records are concerned.

Sardar Piara Singh (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural) (*Pnnjabi*): Sir, people living in the rural areas in general and of my district in particular are very poor. It is really a pity that our Government does not devise any ways and means to improve the hard lot of these poor people who pay their land revenue and other taxes regularly. No steps whatsoever are being taken by the Government to improve their hard lot. All the fertile land in my district

[Sardar Piara Singh.]

has been rendered waste on account of 'chos' so much so that villages have suffered a great loss. In spite of our repeated representations to save the poor people of the villages from this catastrophe, no adequate steps whatsoever have so far been taken by the Government in this direction.

Further, I would like to say a few things about the patwaris. It is said that patwaris resort to corruption. It is an open secret that they are low-paid and they cannot make both ends meet, so much so that they find it well nigh impossible even to provide for the education of their children. They live on the poor zamindars who grease their palms every now and then. Being low-paid Government servants, they have no other alternative except corruption. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to enhance the salaries of the patwaris so that they may not take recourse to corrupt practices. I would also like to say a few words about the consolidation of land holdings. If it is the intention of the Government to make the Grow the More Food campaign a success then they should lose no time in taking the consolidation work in hand. The sooner this work is taken in hand and completed, the better would it be in the interest of both the State and the zamindars. I would like to suggest to the Government to entrust this work to revenue patwaris who should be paid over-time wages. If this is done, I am sure, consolidation work would be completed within a few months.

So far as the people of my district are concerned, they are as already stated very poor, so much so that they find it very difficult to pay the chahi rates. They are paying the land revenue and are already hard-hit. I do not find any justification on the part of the Government to levy chahi rates upon them. I would request the Government to pay special attention towards the poor people of my district and do something substantial to improve their hard lot.

Sardar Shiv Singh (Gurdaspur North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I do not want to say anything about the 'haisiyat' tax as my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has already made some mention about it in the course of his speech. I quite agree with what he has said about it and I am sure Government will not hesitate to consider his suggestions in this connection. It is the intention of the Government to enhance water rates from the Zamindars. I am of the opinion that by increasing water rates (abiana) Government would be doing a grave injustice to the poor zamindars.

✓ **Mr. Speaker:** This rate concerns the Irrigation Department. The hon. Member is not relevant

Sardar Shiv Singh: Sir, what I wish to point out is that the land revenue and the chahi rates which the zamindars pay at present are already

very high. They are already over-burdened with many taxes. Under the present conditions, when they are already hard-hit it is the pressing need of the hour to improve their hard lot.

Sir, there is hardly any tax that has not been levied on the poor zamindars. I would like to point out to the Government that in village Kanowal, district Gurdaspur, there is a nullah which gets flooded during the rainy season and thus damages the crops and houses. It would be better if the Government constructs a shallow drain by spending a nominal sum of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 so that the water may be utilised to the best advantage of the cultivators. Some of my hon. Friends have expressed their opinion that corruption is prevalent in the Government departments because the officials are low-paid. But I cannot subscribe to this view. I have noticed that whenever any officer from the rank of foot constable high up to revenue officer goes to any village on official duty, their charges by way of illegal gratification vary from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 500/-. Under the existing system, highly placed officers often have the tendency to look down upon the acceptance of a small sum by way of illegal gratification and big offers are made to them. So I think it will be the greatest service in the cause of best administration, if everybody does all in his power to root out corruption from the State. For my part, I have spent about five thousand rupees from my own pocket in connection with the drive to root out corruption from the State. I have been boldly protesting and making complaints against the high-handedness of corrupt officers. I have never compromised with corruption and would never like to keep mum when any matters relating to evil practices of corruption are brought to my notice. Sometime back, I made a complaint making definite allegations of corruption against a Sub Inspector of police. After making necessary enquires, the authorities reverted him as Head Constable though his promotion as Inspector of police was within sight. Similarly, two or three Government officials were awarded punishment on my complaint against them. So if my hon. Friends likewise concentrate their attention on fighting against corruption with a determined will, the day will not be far off when we would be able to cleanse the administration of this evil.

Sir, I find that provision has been made in the Budget for the opening of new schools and also to accelerate the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. But it is regrettable that the Government does not appear to be conscious of its responsibility towards Gurdaspur district. It has failed to provide any amenities for the people of this district. Gurdaspur is the main centre for supplying electricity to other towns and it is strange that the villages in this district are not electrified. Similarly, canals have their source in this district but irrigate land of other ilaqa with no benefit to Gurdaspur district. In certain villages in Gurdaspur district there is abundant growth of grass in the month of May and June and if sugar cane is grown in that ilaga, there

[Sardar Shiv Singh.]

can be a considerable yield. But the main difficulty is that these villages are not inter-linked with towns by any road with the result that sugar cane cannot be brought to the markets in the towns for sale. Besides this, it is observed that newspapers often publish articles displaying immeasurable sympathy with the tenant class but on the other hand we hear that Government has issued confidential orders to the district authorities to keep a watch on the activities of tenant class. It is said that Government intends to introduce a legislative measure but the pity is that nobody knows what are the contents of this Bill. A great measure of sympathy is being shown from certain quarters towards the tenant class in the name of Mahatma Gandhi but I would say that if Mahatma Ji were alive, he would have certainly condemned the Government for burdening the poor zamindars with increased abiana. Moreover, the Congress has done remarkable work in laying down that the elections to Legislative Assembly of every State would be on the basis of adult suffrage. In villages I find that the labourers are being paid very low wages though they toil throughout the day. It is strange that in spite of their hard work they are only given 4 to 5 seers of foodgrains. It is in the fitness of things that some legislative measure be brought forward to regulate their wages. I would also inform the House that the small land-holders do not get much profit in paddy but they are also being burdened with more and more taxes. These tillers of the soil have to pay large amount in defraying the charges incurred in connection with the sowing of their crops.

In the end, I would say that the British Government has been taking great precautions in protecting its borders and our Government should also follow in its footsteps and make necessary arrangements on the borders so that there should not be any feeling of panic among the people. On account of fast deteriorating relations with Pakistan, there is every possibility of war breaking out. Such news has caused considerable dislocation in villages and people are concentrating in towns. It would be better if the Government provides all amenities in villages so that the people should not feel inclined to leave villages in order to get proper facilities in towns. Moreover, the Government should try to provide irrigational facilities to the cultivators in villages or their land revenue should be considerably reduced so that they may be able to make both ends meet. The people who live in the villages of border districts often talk of the machine guns that have been set up on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. They are lulled into false sense of security that in case of war breaking out, their premises will be safe on account of the long range shots of the machine guns.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram (Hissar North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is a matter for great regret that yesterday and to-day again when some hon. Members tried to refer to one of the burning problems of the province, I mean the 'landlords Versus tenants', you did not allow them to do so. Sir, immediate solution of this problem is the crying need of

the hour. This House must know before this session terminates as to what the Government intends doing in this matter of great public importance. When we go back to our villages, we must have some positive reply to give to the tenants' anxious queries about this matter. A few days back, when a resolution about the matter was brought before the House, Sardar Partap Singh had given an assurance that the Government would be bringing legislation before the House to deal with this problem in this very session. But it is a matter for regret, Sir, that so far there has not been any indication whether the Government intends to do so or not. No such Bill has come in the party meeting for consideration. It is not known where the promised Bill is lying. Is it lying in the drawers of some Minister's table? It appears the Government wants to put off the matter until this session is over.

Then I feel that the food problem in this State cannot be solved without adopting an 'open policy'. The Government must make an announcement without further delay as to whether it is prepared to remove restrictions and controls or not so that we may be able to give definite information to the zamindars in this connection. Sardar Swaran Singh seems to hold a different view because he has not yet had full experience of the rough and tumble of public life.

There is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. The chowkidars, posted in villages, are proving a great burden on the poor ruralities. One chowkidar would be sufficient for each village. Then the zamindars have some other grievances too. No land revenue should be charged by the Government on the common land on the outskirts of villages which remains uncultivated and is used by every one. Land revenue is being charged even on the land which has come under the village paths. This should not be done. Even the damaged crops are not exempted from payment of land revenue. The hon. Minister, being himself a zamindar knows it well. Instead of giving the poor zamindars some compensation in lieu of the damaged crops and the labour lost, land revenue at full rate is charged from them, causing them great hardships. This matter needs the special attention of the Government.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I must first thank all the hon. Friends who have made suggestions for improvement in the administration of the Revenue Department. I shall now briefly deal with the objections raised by various hon. Members. Sardar Sajjan Singh has suggested that the Government should levy land revenue on the principles of income-tax. In this connection I submit, Sir, that it is very difficult to do so, as the principle underlying land revenue is different from that governing the imposition of income-tax.

[Minister for Education.]

I may here quote a few lines from the finding of the Land Revenue Committee which was set up in 1938.

Land Revenue, therefore, is primarily a charge, not upon persons, but upon the land and all land to whatever purpose applied and wherever situate is liable to its payment.

In Bulgaria the experiment of basing land revenue on the principles of income-tax was tried and found wanting. In this connection, there are a few observations of the Land Revenue Committee on page 24 of its report, which I would like to quote for the information of the House.

The experience of Bulgaria is significant in this connection, particularly as it is a country of small peasant proprietors in many respects resembling the Punjab. In 1921 the land tax was abolished in favour of income-tax, but was reintroduced in 1923, as the peasants did not declare their incomes. Yet sixty per cent of them can read and write.

Then, Sardar Sajjan Singh has referred to the discriminatory treatment alleged to have been meted out to some patwaris who took part in the strike. I can assure him that his information is not correct. None of them was given salary for the period of suspension. So far as Sardar Swaran Singh's suggestion for imparting education to the patwaris through the Education Department is concerned, I can only say that it will receive due consideration. Regarding the objection as to why the provision for this department has been increased over the current year's provision, I have to submit that it is partly due to the enhancement in the salaries of the staff and partly owing to the proposed replacement of measuring instruments.

My reply to the objection raised with regard to the hahi rate is that it is a charge on land and not on persons.

I have also to inform the House that a committee has been constituted to go into the question of landlords versus tenants of which I am the Chairman, and the matter is under its consideration. Circumstances in this Province are not analogous to those of U. P., nor is the problem so acute and difficult here. Landlords as well as tenants, both belong to the class of rural people and have many connections with each other and many things in common, besides being neighbours. Leaving aside the refugees, the number of landlords who pay more than Rs. 250 per annum as land revenue in this province is no more than 526. Mostly, this is a province of small peasant, who are proprietors of small holdings. I would, therefore, appeal to the landlords to treat their tenants fairly and not to put them to hardships unnecessarily. On the other hand, I would also appeal to the tenants not to give the former cause for complaint and continue to pay their due share to them regularly. If they fail to do so, naturally they will be losing the sympathy

of the landlords. Meanwhile we shall try our best to find a satisfactory solution of the problem, after taking all the factors into consideration and making the necessary adjustments, though the success of any measure taken by the Government in this regard will depend on the mutual adjustment of relations by the parties themselves.

I can assure the House that the Government is very keen on carrying through its scheme of consolidation of holdings and there is no question of its postponement, because it will result in increasing the income of the Government also. Our thanks are due to Gianiji who first sponsored this scheme. This has been tried in many European countries with fruitful results. Financial stringency will not be allowed to stand in its way.

As regards encroachments on the village paths to which a reference was made by Chaudhri Lahri Singh, I may invite the attention of the House to Section 150 of the Land Revenue Act under which anybody can lodge a complaint of this nature with the officers concerned. Instructions have also been issued to them to take care that such encroachments do not occur.

Then a reference was made about the prevalence of corruption. Sir, in this matter I hold different views. I would appeal to the people to abstain from offering bribes in order to get an undue favour or advantage from any official. When people will stop offering bribes, there will be an end to corruption.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

The Motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,54,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Land Revenue.

The Motion was carried.

The following Demands were then put from the Chair and adopted :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,92,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Provincial Excise.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Stamps.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,02,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Forests.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Registration.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,52,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts and other Taxes and Duties.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,36,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Irrigation (Works).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,62,07,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,82,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of General Administration.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,33,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Administration of Justice.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,01,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,76,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Police.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,86,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,21,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

That a sum not exceeding Rs 53,68,090 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Agriculture.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,75,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Veterinary.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,74,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Co-operation.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,19,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Industries.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,24,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,55,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Civil Works.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,64,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of charges on Buildings and Roads Establishment.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,50,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,75,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,85,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,59,34,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Famine.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,30,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,61,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,95,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Stationery and Printing.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,37,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Extraordinary Charges.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,13,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,07,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Advances not bearing Interest—Advances Repayable.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,72,97,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1950-51 in respect of Loans and Advances bearing Interest—Loans and Advances by Provincial Government.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday, 27th March 1950.

Qaumi Press, Jullundur.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, today we are going to discuss the Appropriation Bill and to enable a large number of hon. Members to take part in the debate, I would suggest that the question hour be dispensed with to-day. You can take the sense of the House and then decide.

Mr. Speaker : I can have no objection if the House agrees.

Minister for Local Self Government and Labour : I submit, Sir, that so far as questions are concerned we are in arrears. Today is 27th and we are still at the list for the 15th. It would be better if we utilise the first hour for questions as usual.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CARRIAGE OF DEAD BODIES FOR POST MORTEM EXAMINATION
IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1525. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of murder cases registered in each of the Police Stations of Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar during the year 1949;
- (b) the number of the dead bodies sent by each of the aforesaid police stations for post-mortem examination to Amritsar in connection with the cases referred to in part (a) above ;
- (c) whether the transport charges in this connection were paid by the police ; if not, by whom ;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any instructions as to who is to bear the cost of transport of such bodies in future ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|----|------------|----|
| (a) | Khalra | 2 | Bhikhiwind | 12 |
| | Patti | 2 | Valtoha | 13 |
| | Total | 29 | | |
| (b) | Khalra | 1 | Bhikhiwind | 12 |
| | Patti | 2 | Valtoha | 14 |
| | Total | 29 | | |

(c) Out of these cases the transport charges were paid by the Police in the case of one unclaimed body. In all other cases the dead bodies were brought to Amritsar by the complainants in their own carts or other conveyances arranged by them. Invariably the relations of the deceased are keen to take back the dead bodies to their own villages after the post mortem examination for cremation according to religious convictions. They therefore voluntarily arrange for the transport of the dead bodies to and back from Amritsar.

(d) There is a separate head "Carriage of Corpses" under the Primary Unit "Contingencies" out of which such charges are met by the Police.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that it ordinarily costs ninety rupees to bring a dead body from Bhikiwind to Amritsar which is beyond the capacity of a poor man to pay? Whereas the Government is spending lakhs of rupees on criminal cases, would it not be possible for the Government if expenses of this nature are also borne by it?

Minister : The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Government's reply to part (c) of the question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I bring it to the notice of the Government that no body would even like to touch the dead body on payment of this paltry amount of Rs. 7/8/- not to talk of bringing it from Bhikiwind to Amritsar?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the Government has received any complaints about the inadequacy of the amount in question?

Minister : I cannot say off hand but if the hon. Member brings this matter to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister, he will make an enquiry.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Why do the Government not undertake the responsibility of bringing the dead body for post mortem

examination upon itself because if it is left to the complainant to do so, he is likely to tamper with the dead body in order to fabricate evidence in his own favour ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is this a uniform rate irrespective of distance ? Has the Government given contract in this behalf ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any formal receipt is obtained from the person to whom the amount is paid ?

Chief Minister : I think a receipt must have been obtained. Anyhow I require notice. This is done according to the rules. I shall, however find out if the hon. Member gives notice of this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If it is a case of murder; may I know whether it is the duty of the Government or the relatives of the deceased to bring the dead body for post mortem examination ?

Chief Minister : This is the duty of the police before the post mortem.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that this rate was fixed long ago when the dead body could be carried by paying Rs. 7/8/- and now when the rates have increased all round, has the Government ever considered the question of raising this amount ?

Chief Minister : The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Government will be prepared to pay the balance to the heir of the deceased in such cases where they had paid more amount as conveyance charges ?

Chief Minister : This is a hypothetical question.

PRINTING OF F. I. R. FORMS AND CASE DIARIES.

***1526. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that contracts for the printing of First Information Report forms and the police case diaries were given by the Government during the year 1949-50 ; if so, to whom together with the date on which orders were placed ;

(b) whether the forms mentioned in part (a) above were made available to the police department before 31st December 1949 ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

(c) the last date for the receipt of the printed forms according to the terms of contracts referred to above ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) No contract for printing of First Information Report forms and the Police Case Diaries was given during the year 1949-50.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the reasons for delay in sending printed forms of F. I. R. to various police stations ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government aware that such forms are prescribed only to prevent the inclusion of extraneous matter in the report during the course of investigation ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that such forms have been out of stock in all the police stations for a long time ?

Minister : These forms have been sent now.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when these forms were sent and the period for which the work was carried on without these printed forms ?

Minister : I cannot tell the date off hand. I shall, however, find out if the hon. Member gives notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Government issue any instructions in the absence of such printed forms ?

Minister : I can't say.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was it brought to the notice of the Government that the absence of forms had bad effect upon the cases ?

Minister : Government is not aware of any such case.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does it mean that the forms were printed in the beginning of the year 1950 as no contract was given in this behalf during the year 1949-50 ?

Minister : The contract was given in the year 1949-50 though the forms were printed in this year.

OVERCROWDING IN JAILS IN AMBALA DIVISION.

*1527. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the monthly average of the number of prisoners confined in each jail of the Ambala Division from 1st April 1949 to 31st December, 1949 ;

(b) the authorised accommodation in each jail in the Ambala Division ;

(c) whether there was over-crowding in any of the jails mentioned above during the aforesaid period ; if so, what arrangements if any, were made to avoid overcrowding ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The daily average number of prisoners confined in each jail of the Ambala Division for the period from 1st April 1949 to 31st December, 1949 is as follows :—

| Name of Jail. | Daily average number of prisoners confined in jails for the period from 1-4-49 to 31-12-49. | Authorised Accommodation. |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. C. J. Ambala ... | 1387.78 | 789 |
| 2. Hissar B. I. & J. Jail ... | 578.30 | 500 (in tents) |
| 3. Hissar Distt. Jail ... | 388.47 | 278 |
| 4. Rohtak Distt. Jail ... | 425.34 | 203 |
| 5. Karnal Sub-Jail. ... | 213.98 | 119 |
| 6. Gurgaon Sub-Jail. ... | 148.65 | 120 |

(b) The authorised accommodation in each Jail in the Ambala Division is as given in column 3 in the reply to para (a) of the question.

(c) All the above jails were over-crowded during the period under reply. The excess number of prisoners was accommodated in tents or in factory workshops, where necessary. In order to avoid overcrowding in Jails generally, additional accommodation is being provided for prisoners in the Central Jails, Ambala and Ferozepur, by constructing new sleeping barracks and cells. A camp jail was opened at Delhi in December, 1948, to meet the influx of prisoners due to R. S. S. movement. The existing camp Jail at Hissar, which is being used as B. I. & J. Jail, is also being converted into a regular jail, with a pucca accommodation for 500 prisoners. There is also a proposal to extend the buildings of the existing District Jail at Amritsar.

OVERCROWDING IN JAILS.

***1528. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the daily average of the number of prisoners confined in Amritsar, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, and Gurdaspur jails respectively during the months of June, July and August 1949 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh,]

(b) whether there was any overcrowding in any of the jails referred to above ; if so, the arrangements made for the accommodation of additional prisoners in each jail ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The daily average of the number of prisoners confined in Amritsar, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur jails during the months of June, July and August 1949 was as follows :—

| Daily average No. of prisoners confined in Jail during | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Name of the Jail | June 1949 | July 1949 | August 1949 | Authorised accommodation. |
| 1. Amritsar District Jail | 614.00 | 637.74 | 626.25 | 284 |
| The average number of undertrials only was about 500. | | | | |
| 2. Jullundur District Jail | 477.9 | 521.25 | 478.38 | 351 |
| 3. Hoshiarpur Sub-Jail | 287.33 | 283.57 | 255.54 | 100 |
| 4. Gurdaspur District Jail | 440.00 | 493.51 | 493.25 | 242 |

(b) The excess number of prisoners over and above the authorised accommodation was accommodated either in tents or in factory barracks where possible.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. [Chief Minister say if there is any vacant space in Amritsar District Jail, where tents could be pitched ?

Chief Minister : I have not been living in that Jail.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : But he must have enquired into this matter.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall enquire into it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Doesn't the Government think that the prisoners have to undergo much more punishment than that to which they have been sentenced, owing to overcrowding in almost all Jails ?

Chief Minister : The Government is taking every possible measure with all the speed; it can't avoid hardship to the prisoners on this account.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is not the observance of the rules and regulations framed by it, binding on the Government itself as it is on the people in general ?

Chief Minister : It is nowhere provided in the rules that they must be kept in roofed accommodation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government satisfied that the prisoners are having the facilities due to them under the rules ?

Chief Minister : The Government is satisfied that whatever can be done in the matter, is being done.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are the women included in the prisoners, whose number in each Jail has just been given ?

Chief Minister : So far as I think, the number of women is very limited. If the hon. Lady Member gives notice, I shall let her know.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that in Ludhiana Jail, where women prisoners are kept, the accommodation is so little that they are being put to considerable inconvenience ?

Chief Minister : I require notice to reply to it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Chief Minister prepared to enquire into the conditions under which women prisoners are living in Jails ?

Chief Minister : Though it is a request, I assure the hon. Lady Member that this will be done, even if she does not give notice of it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : While knowing that even in summer months, the average number of prisoners in Amritsar District Jail has been 637, doesn't the Government think it desirable to extend the permanent accommodation in it ?

Chief Minister : If my able Friend had tried to listen to the reply to the previous question, he would not have to ask this supplementary question. It was stated therein : 'There is also a proposal to extend the buildings of the existing District Jail at Amritsar.' I may also tell the hon. Member that though I was not at that time in-charge of this Department, on the occasion the R. S. S. agitation, a separate building had been got to keep them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Now that the number of prisoners has increased, doesn't the Government think it desirable to amend the rule, fixing the minimum per head accommodation for prisoners in Jails, so that there may be no violation of rules ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a suggestion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Doesn't the Government think that there is need for a separate Jail for women prisoners in this province, just as there was a separate Jail for them before the partition ?

Chief Minister : The number of women prisoners is not so much as to warrant the provision of a separate Jail. I don't think my hon. Sister wants equal representation for women even in this matter. (*Laughter*)

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In view of the fact that the prisoners in this State have to undergo hardships owing to over-crowding in Jails, has the Government issued instructions to grant them more 'rebate' on the periods of their imprisonment ?

Chief Minister : No, the rebate is being allowed according to the rules.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know what is the cause of this over-crowding in Jails ?

Chief Minister : The incidence of crime has increased.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it not due to the fact that under instructions of the executive, the Magistrates are generally reluctant to enlarge under-trial prisoners on bail ?

Chief Minister : No, the Executive cannot issue such instructions to the Magistrates.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS.

*1645. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Deputy Commissioners who have been posted as such for the first time without any previous experience of administrative work together with the places where they are posted at present ;

(b) the administrative posts on which Mr. N. K. Mukerji had worked before being posted as Deputy Commissioner, Hissar ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) All the Deputy Commissioners at present posted in the Punjab had previous administrative experience before their appointment as such.

(b) It is not in public interest to supply information concerning the qualifications of individual officers for holding administrative posts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if it is not considered necessary that the officers who are posted as Deputy Commissioners should have acquired some administrative experience as Sub-Divisional Officers etc., before they

are put in charge of the districts? Are they supposed to have gained this experience while working on secretariat posts?

Chief Minister : They do have previous administrative experience. Wherever they work, they gain some experience.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question is different. I want to know as to whether before being posted as Deputy Commissioners, it is not considered necessary that they should have some experience of working for some time on some lower post in the district administration and as to whether the Government thinks it fit to transfer them straightaway from a secretariat post to the post of Deputy Commissioner?

Chief Minister : That is a general question. I might, however, for the information of the hon. Member say that all the Deputy Commissioners have previous administrative experience. Those who are recruited to the I. A. S. are first posted as Assistant Commissioners and after a certain number of years' service, they are put in charge of districts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the present Deputy Commissioner of Hissar has had any opportunity of gaining administrative experience by working on some lower post in the district administration?

Chief Minister : Sir, I am not prepared to reply to this question.

PROMOTION OF TEHSILDARS.

***1646. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the procedure adopted in the promotion of Tehsildars to Extra Assistant Commissionerships ;
- (b) the total number of cases in the Punjab in which the conditions regulating such promotions have been waived together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Tehsildars were appointed as E. A. Cs. by Government on the recommendations of Financial Commissioner, and in consultation with the Public Service Commission.

- (b) In only one case the condition in respect of age was waived. This was done in view of the candidate's good record for honesty and his experience of colony work.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have some persons been recruited as Extra Assistant Commissioners from among the Tehsildars for whom the Government had to waive some conditions ?

Minister : Conditions had to be waived in one case.

Chief Minister : It is not possible to reply to questions relating to individual cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On account of what virtue were the conditions waived in one case ?

Minister for Education : It had to be done in the interests of administration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are the rules etc. thrown to the winds in the interests of administration ?

Minister : The interests of the administration are served in accordance with the rules.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I ask as to why one man was given preference over others and what was his special qualification.

Chief Minister : It has already been stated in the answer that this was done in view of the candidate's good record for honesty and his experience of colony work.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that this candidate is a relative of a Minister and has been promoted on his recommendation ?

Minister : It is absolutely wrong.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : How much difference of age has been condoned and when was the last recruitment from among the Tehsildars made ?

Chief Minister : I do not know the exact date but I think that recruitment was made in 1949.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : What I wished to know was as to how much difference in age was condoned and for how long recruitment had not been made before 1949.

Minister : Most probably the difference of age was two years.

Chief Minister : I do not know the difference in age that has been condoned. After 1947, the recruitment was made in 1949.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is this concession of two years given to

the candidate for the reason that no recruitment had been made for some time past ?

Chief Minister : Possibly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the conditions waived concern only age or some other matter as well ?

Minister : Conditions waived related only to age.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that some other candidates were not accepted simply because they were over-age ?

Chief Minister : The condition regarding age could only be waived if the candidates were otherwise suitable.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that a Tehsildar who had been working as a 1st class Magistrate for six years has not been given the age concession whereas a comparatively less experienced man has got it ?

Chief Minister : This selection was made by the Government when I had nothing to do with this affair. I have no personal knowledge of it.

SUSPENSION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

***1666. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of Government officers who were suspended from service for corruption during the year 1949;
- (b) the nature of allegations against each of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) 150.

- (b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the nature of allegations in each case but in most cases they pertained to corruption and misconduct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister say as to how many of them have been punished departmentally or otherwise ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should give a notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government fixed a time limit in which a decision must be taken about the suspended officer ?

Chief Minister : There is no time limit.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that sometimes people are kept under suspension for two or two and a half years and the Government has to pay huge sums at the time of reinstatement ?

Chief Minister : So far as I am aware some people were suspended after the 15th of August 1947 in 1948 and their cases stand decided by this time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that at times charge sheets are not given even one or two months after suspension ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member should give a regular notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not the responsibility of the Government to inform the officers concerned as to how much time would be taken to decide their cases ?

Chief Minister : As little time is spent as possible.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that some people remain under suspension for years ?

Chief Minister : It is not quite correct to say that. As I have already said, after the 15th of August 1947, the cases of people who were suspended in 1948 stand decided by now.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that almost all the 150 officers who were suspended have been reinstated ?

Chief Minister : That might be the information of the hon. Member ; it is not mine.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Will the Government be prepared to consider the cases of those officers who have been suspended without having been given an opportunity for explanation ?

Chief Minister : Most surely.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the harm in giving the names of the corrupt officers when Government itself dubbed them as 'badmashes' in reply to my question ?

Chief Minister : I say that it is not in the public interest to give a list of the names.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : At what stage is the case of the Personal Assistant to the hon. Chief Minister who was under suspension ?

Chief Minister : None of my Personal Assistants is under suspension.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that Mr. Mulk Raj, a personal Assistant of the hon. Chief Minister was reinstated only three days ago ?

Chief Minister : I seek your protection, Sir. Individual cases cannot be discussed on the floor of the House.

SANSIS.

***1753. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Sansis of Rohtak and Hissar districts have been exempted from the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Sansis of district Karnal made a representation and sent subsequent reminders to the Government about three years back asking for similar exemption;
- (c) what action, if any, has been or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. (a) No.

(b) Yes, in the year 1948.

(c) The case of Sansis of Karnal district was examined by the Superintendent of Police, Karnal and he reported that they are still inclined towards crime. Steps are, however, being taken to denotify, under rule 25 of the rules framed under section 20 of the Criminal Tribes, Act, all Sansis of mauza Samana Bhao, Police Station Butana, District Karnal as they are already exemptees.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Is it permissible under the Constitution to treat any person as a member of a criminal tribe by the mere reason of his birth ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a question of opinion.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : This is a legal question, Sir.

Chief Minister : Legal questions cannot be discussed through interpellations.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the fact that the classification of some persons as members of criminal tribes has been

[Chaudhri Matu Ram]

abolished in Bombay, Madras, and Bihar ? Does the Government propose to take similar steps in this State ?

Chief Minister : The whole matter is under consideration. The Government of India has now set up a Committee to examine this question and to suggest some alternate scheme, if necessary. We shall act according to the recommendation of the Central Government.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Have some persons requested the Government during the last two years for their exemption from the operation of Criminal Tribes Act ?

Chief Minister : When I said that the question of repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act was under consideration, I meant that the entire question was being examined.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Chief Minister stated that the Sansis of Rohtak and Hissar have not been exempted. Has nobody been exempted or has exemption been made in some cases ?

Chief Minister : I have stated in my reply that exemption has been granted to the Sansis of one village.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the number of cases in which exemption has been granted in Rohtak and Hissar is much larger than in the case of Karnal ?

Chief Minister : The Government granted exemption in those cases where it was possible and is still prepared to examine fit cases. The whole question is being re-examined.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Has the Government received some request from the Sansis of Gurdaspur for exemption from the operation of Criminal Tribes Act ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall find it out.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : What criterion is observed in deciding on the suitability or otherwise of granting these exemptions ?

Chief Minister : It is done according to the rules.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Is it not a fact that under the provisions of this Act, certain persons are treated as Members of criminal tribes by the mere reason of their birth and it is immaterial whether they committed any crime or not ? Does the Government propose to abolish this system ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member can refer to the Act. I have replied that the matter is under consideration and it is very likely that the Criminal Tribes Act may be repealed.

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF PANDIT FAQIR CHAND
AS PRESIDENT OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMRITSAR.**

***1664. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state the reasons as to why the election of Pandit Faqir Chand as President of the Amritsar Municipal Committee has not been notified as yet ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : No reply can be given as the hon. Member (Pandit Faqir Chand) has served a notice on Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : As this case is not sub-judice now, does the Government propose to answer this question ?

Minister : As a notice has already been served, I am not in a position to say that the case is not sub-judice. Moreover it has been reported in the news papers that the case would be taken to the Supreme Court.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Has a notice been served on the Government ?

Chief Minister : Yes.

CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECTS AND ROADS.

***1665. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the amount the Government has spent so far on such projects and roads whose further construction has since been stopped ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : Rs. 73,000/- (Rupees seventy three thousand).

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know the amount of money which would be required to complete these projects ?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioners of these districts have represented to the Government that if these schemes are left incomplete, the work already done on those roads would become quite useless and the money spent so far would have been wasted ?

Minister : The Government has considered all the aspects.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that if these projects are not completed, the amount of money spent on them so far would mean dead loss to the Government ?

Minister : The Government had to stop the work for want of funds.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government hope to have money for completing these schemes in a year or two ?

Minister : We shall try to do so.

CIVIL ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

***1696. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government intends to start a Civil Engineering College in the State ; if so, when and where ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : Government have already got a College for imparting training in Civil Engineering up to the B. Sc. Engineering (Civil) Degree standard of Punjab University, namely, the Punjab College of Engineering. The question of starting a College in the State and shifting the existing one at Roorkee to some suitable place in the State is under the consideration of Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Which places has the Government under consideration for opening the College ?

Minister : Nothing definite can be said at present because the matter has not been decided as yet.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not possible for the hon. Minister to tell the names of the places which are being considered ?

Minister : Nothing can be said about it till some decision has been arrived at.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the names of the places which the Government has in view for opening the College ?

Minister : So long as no decision is made, nothing definite can be stated.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that Lala Karam Chand Thapar has paid twenty five lakhs of rupees for the opening of such a College ?

Minister : No amount has been paid.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Does the Government propose to start a Technical College of the kind which existed in Lahore ?

Chief Minister : Victoria Diamond Jubilee Institute was a private College. The Government proposes to help any one starting it in this State and whatever is decided in this connection will be made known.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Is Khanna also included in those places which are being considered for the opening of Engineering College ? (*Laughter*)

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has said that the Government proposes to give money to the Institute which existed in Lahore. When

will it be in a position to do so ?

Chief Minister : It was not a Government Institute. The authorities who controlled that Institute could tell when they would be able to start it here.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has that Institute made no representation for help ?

Chief Minister : I have replied the question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has not the Government stated in reply to the representation made by that Institute that it would give the necessary help ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for answering the question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How long will it take the Government to do so ?

Chief Minister : The Government can't give a definite reply.

TRAINING IN MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

***1697. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government intends to give facilities to those who want to take training in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in the State ; if so, how ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : Facilities for training in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering already exist in the Punjab Engineering College which is located at Roorkee and the question of final location of which in the State is already engaging the attention of Government.

SCHOLARS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

***1698. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has sent any scholar for higher studies in engineering to the foreign countries;
- (b) the names of those scholars and the help given to each one of them by the Government ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (a) Yes.

- (b) A list of such sponsored scholars and deputationists is placed on the table. It may be explained that those who proceed no

[Chief Minister]

study leave are called deputationists while those who are sent on a Government scholarship are termed sponsored scholars.

The scholars are allowed the following concessions :—

1. Stipened (maintenance allowance) @ £ 400 per annum in the United Kingdom and \$ 160 per mensem in the United States of America.

2. Tuition fees @ approximately Rs100/- p.m.

3. Books and Apparatus (since withdrawn).

4. Study tour allowance @ 250/- p.a. (since withdrawn).

5. Thessis charge. (Since withdrawn).

6. Equipment Allownce fixed Rs. 500/- (fixed).

7. Passage expenses from India to the country of study and back at the rates approved by the Government of India.

The deputationists are allowed payments as under :—

1. Leave salary at the rates admissible under the rules.

2. Study allowance @ 16 shillings per day in the United Kingdom and 30 shillings per day in the United States of America. Tha rate of 30 shillings in the United States of America, has, on devaluation, been enhanced to yield 160 dollars per mensem.

They are in addition allowed all the payments referred to at Nos. 2 to 7 in the case of sponsored scholars.

List of deputationists and scholars sent abroad for study in engineering.

Deputationists (on study leave term)

1. Mr. S. S. Lamba.

2. Mr. K. S. Pathak.

3. Mr. B. S. Bhalla.

11. Mr. W. G. Lall.

12. Mr. J. S. Basarka.

13. Mr. P. C. Khanna.

SCHOLARS.

4. Mr. N. K. Berry.

5. Mr. M. L. Ghai.

6. Mr. G. S. Sarkaria.

7. Mr. I. P. Kapila.

8. Mr. R. S. Shri Kant.

9. Mr. Kulbir Singh.

10. Mr. K. M. Sinclair.

14. Mr. M. N. Sharma.

15. Mr. G. S. Toki.

16. Mr. D. P. Aggarwal.

17. Mr. Gulzar Singh.

18. Mr. N. S. Lamba.

19. Mr. R. C. Sharma.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister please state whether the help given to the scholars is sufficient for their studies?

Chief Minister: Generally this help is sufficient but when their expenses are more they spend from their own pockets.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of those students who have come back after completing their course of studies ?

Chief Minister : Government requires notice for this.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of students sent by the Government to various countries for study after the partition ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for supplying this information.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know the number of Harijans sent for higher studies to foreign countries ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that for giving exact figure I require notice.

LABOUR OFFICERS.

***1737. Sardar Waryam Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state ;—

- (a) whether the Labour Officers appointed after the Partition but before the establishment of the Labour Department were interviewed by the Punjab Public Service Commission ;
- (b) the names that were recommended by the Public Service Commission together with the order of merit in which they were placed by it ;
- (c) whether appointments have been made to the posts of a Labour Commissioner and eleven Labour Inspectors ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) No. It was not necessary under the rules as the appointment was made on transfer from the Industries Department for a period of six months.

(b) The names of the candidates cannot be disclosed but recommendations of the Public Service Commission have been accepted by the Government in order of merit.

(c) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the matter of appointment of Labour Inspectors about one and a half years back the Government made recommendations to the Public Service Commission which they refused to accept ?

Minister : This is quite baseless. No recommendations were made to the Public Service Commission. Appointments were made in order of merit from the list sent by the Public Service Commission.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government recommended a name for the post of Labour Commissioner ?

Minister : This is quite wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Then why is it that the names were withdrawn in the first instance ?

Minister : No name was withdrawn. Indeed the appointments were made on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

Shri Prabodh Chandra . Is it not a fact that the name of Pandit Amar Nath Vidyalanker was recommended by the Government for the post of Labour Commissioner ?

Minister : This is absolutely baseless.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Minister lose temper ? (*laughter*)

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the hon. Minister realise what will happen if the questions are also put in the same tone ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, is it parliamentary that the hon. Minister should shout like this and use such a tone towards an hon. Member of the House while replying to supplementaries ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should proceed with his supplementary question. I shall not allow any one to use un-parliamentary language.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But, Sir, is it parliamentary for the hon. Minister to lose temper ?

Chief Minister : Ministers always use parliamentary language but hon. Members sometimes put questions in un-parliamentary language.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is the function of the Chair to decide what is parliamentary and what is not. The hon. Member should put his question.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES IN DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

***1740. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Local self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the District Board, Jullundur, has fixed the proportion of communal representation in its services ;
- (b) whether Government proposes to take any action in the matter ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) The resolution fixing the proportion of communal representation in the services of the District Board was passed long ago, i.e., in December, 1947. It has come to the notice of Government only now.

(b) Reservation of posts for any community except for backward classes is prohibited under Article 16 of the Constitution of India and therefore it is void under Article 13 of the Constitution. This resolution of the District Board is being annulled under section 50 (2) of the District Boards Act.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister please state whether all the clauses of the Constitution are faithfully followed ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a general question. This question relates to Jullundur District Board only.

CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD FROM LOHARU TO BHIWANI.

***1755. Shri Buja Ram Bhagat :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state when the work of construction of the road from Loharu to Bhiwani is likely to be started by the Government ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : There is no proposal at present to construct any metalled road between Bhiwani and Loharu. The existing unmetalled road is maintained by the District Board to whom the road belongs.

LOHARU, PATAUDI AND DUJANA.

***1756. Shri Buja Ram Bhagat :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total income from the cattle fair fund and the local rate collected from Loharu, Pataudi and Dujana ;
- (b) the purpose for which it is proposed to utilize this amount ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Loharu Rs. 1,49,084/-.

Pataudi Rs. 1,56,202/-,

Dujana. Rs. 38,754/-.

- (b) It is proposed to utilise this amount for providing educational, medical and public health facilities for the people of these areas.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat : May I know how this money will be utilized by the District Board? Will it be spent to provide amenities to the people of the states of Dujana, Pataudi, etc?

Minister : If the hon Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat : Will the hon. Minister please say that out of this money the District Board will make arrangements for the payment of salaries of the teachers, which have not been paid to them for the last four or five months?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This question does not relate to the payment of salaries to the teachers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know since when this amount was collected?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that it is more than two years since this amount was realised?

Minister : I cannot say anything off hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any provision has been made in the budget for this year for the opening of hospitals or schools in the States of Dujana, Loharu etc?

Chief Minister : Government make provisions in the Budget according to the schedule of expenditure received by them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the amount of Rs. 7854, collected from the fairs in these states, related to the period before they were merged in the district of Rohtak, Gurgaon etc.; if so will it be spent for the betterment of the people of these States?

Minister for Labour : Since the merger of these states, the District Boards concerned have been fully alive to this matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government have issued any orders to the District Board, Rohtak, to spend this amount for certain purposes in these States? If not whether Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility of providing amenities to the people of these states?

Minister : The question of issuing orders does not arise. The District Board utilises the amount collected from fairs on certain items from which this income accrues?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply to the main question that the amount realized from the fairs in these states will be made use of in providing sanitary, medical and educational facilities to the people of these states. I want to know whether before giving this reply the Government had issued instructions to the Rohtak District Board that this amount was necessarily to be utilised for the provision of certain amenities to these states. If no instructions have been issued then on what ground has the Government presumed that this amount will be spent by the District Board on the items mentioned by the hon. Minister ?

Minister : This reply has been prepared on the basis of a set policy of the Government. So this amount will certainly be spent for providing sanitary and educational facilities to the people of these States.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether it has come to the knowledge of the Government that since the merger, the District Board has not opened any hospital or school in these States ? If so, then on what presumption has the Government replied that this amount is being spent for the betterment of these States ? May I know whether Government consider it their responsibility to see that the said amount is expended for the benefit of the people of these States ?

Minister : I have said that this amount will be spent on these States. If the hon. Member brings to the notice of the Government that that amount of money has not been spent by the District Board, Rohtak, in providing certain amenities to the people of these States, then enquiries will be made and the Government will write to the District Board that the said amount should be utilised for the benefit of the States' people.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know how the Government intends to utilize the money realized from the cattle fair held at Simla ?

Minister : I require notice.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it a fact that after the merger of these states, Government has taken over all the sources of income of these states ? If so, has Government nominated any Member to the District Board Hissar to safeguard the interests of the people of the State ? Is it also a fact that same amenities have not been provided to the people of the State, which have been provided for the people of the rural areas of Hissar ?

WHEAT AND SUGAR CONSUMED IN RATIONED AREAS.

***1739. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of persons on food ration in the Punjab ;

[Shri Virendra]

- (b) the actual quantity of wheat and sugar consumed by the population of the rationed areas in the Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) 18,43,216 on 31-1-50 including children.

(b) :

(i) 12316 tons wheat per month .

(ii) 1270 tons sugar.

Shri Virendra : May I know the number of rationed towns ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member means those rationed towns where wheat has been rationed, then the number is 12.

WATERLOGGING IN KARNAL DISTRICT.

***1750. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that due to waterlogging thousand of acres of culturable land is lying uncultivated between Urlana Kalan and village Pathri in the Karnal District ;
- (b) whether any representations have been received by the Government from the villages to reclaim this waterlogged area ; if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in this connection if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) There is no waterlogging in this area. After Moonsoon the rain water collects in the low areas and depressions. This water dries up in course of time during winter. However to drain off this area quickly, a drain, called Pathri Drain, was constructed in 1946-47 at a cost of about Rs. 55000/- which is functioning very satisfactorily.

- (b) Representations were received from village Seenk to drain off the water from low lying areas. The scheme of digging a Sub drain from village Seenk and to join it with the Pathri Drain is under investigation and estimate for the same is being prepared. The work will be taken in hand very shortly.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government will make arrangement for the utilization of that water which now keeps standing there for the irrigation of lands, ?

Chief Minister : Government will certainly make the necessary arrangements.

Chaudhri Jagdish Chander : May I know whether any reply has been given to the representation made by the people of that ilaqa ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what is the policy of the Government with regard to representations submitted to it, whether any reply is given or not ?

Chief Minister : This is a general question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PANIC PREVAILING AMONG THE OLD TENANTS IN TEHSIL SIRSA RE ALLOTMENT OF THEIR LANDS TO REFUGEES.

***1944. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the great panic prevailing in the old tenants of about 10 villages such as Mangoli Fatehpuri, Stakohri, etc. of Tehsil Sirsa, District Hissar on account of the fact that the lands cultivated by them since long, have been allotted to refugees with the danger that the old tenants will be deprived of cultivation ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these tenants have expressed their willingness to continue to pay rent and batai to the allottee owners as they used to pay previously ;
- (c) whether the Government intends to ensure that these and other such old tenants of the big evacuee muslim landlords would not be ejected for at least 3 years ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes. There is panic in some villages with local tenants. But there are no villages of the name of Mangoli and Stakhori.

(b) Yes.

(c) No such decision has been taken by Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the Government that the tenants of Muslim landlords, who have been working there for a very long time, are faced with the calamity of ejectment as a result of the allotment of those lands to the refugees ? If so what arrangements have been made by the Government to alleviate their distress ?

Minister : We are fully alive to the situation which is not as serious as my hon. Friend thinks it to be. These tenants will be absorbed in the first instance. If any one is left unemployed, Government will see that he is provided with employment as a tenant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the number of such tenants rises up to thousands and lakhs, who have been working as tenants of the Muslim landlords and ejection is staring them in the face? If the Government thinks that they will be absorbed, then may I know whether any arrangement has been made for providing them with adequate land?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is their number?

Minister : For this I require notice. But it is a fact that their number exceeds one thousand. Government is fully aware of the fact that their number is quite sufficient. In spite of this fact, efforts will be made to absorb both the big as well as the small tenants. Government can provide them with work in different avenues.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that there is a sufficient number of such villages where the tenants of the big Muslim evacuee landlords have been cultivating their lands since long? In view of the fact that these lands have been allotted to the refugees, is it within the knowledge of the Government that the old tenants are being ejected? May I know if it is the intention to provide them with land at other places? Is it also within their knowledge that it would not be difficult to provide them with land with a view to enable them to earn their livelihood?

Minister : The number of such tenants is not so large that they cannot be provided with land. They will surely be provided with the same kind of work which they have been doing. The hon. Member would know it within a few months that the number of those tenants who would be ejected and thus deprived of work in connection with cultivation would in no way be in hundreds.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : May I know if the old tenants of the big evacuee Muslim landlords would be provided with land at some other places?

Minister : They would be provided with land after the quasi-permanent allotment.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Would they be sent to other places?

Minister : At the time of allotment, land would go to such allottees who may not till it with their own hands. As and when they will get the possession of land, they would be asked to settle terms with those tenants who have been cultivating these lands since long. Efforts would, however, be made to get their lands cultivated by those very tenants.

Sardar Partap Singh : Are any efforts being made by the Government to intervene in the matter and thus settle it between the allottees and the tenants who have been cultivating the land since long?

Minister : It would have been in the fitness of things if they were to arrive at an amicable settlement themselves. Government would surely interfere in the matter if it is felt necessary to do so.

Sardar Partap Singh : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that if and when the old tenants of these big Muslim evacuee landlords are ejected, they would be deprived of the sources of their livelihood ? Has the Government taken any steps to remove this hardship to them ?

Minister : Adequate steps would be taken at the time of allotment if and when such a situation arises.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know as to how the tenants of big evacuee Muslim landlords in the villages of Karnal District where they own their houses would be settled after they are ejected from the lands they have been cultivating for long ? How are the old tenants in the village of Nawab Karimpura, District Karnal to be settled ?

Minister : The land of the big evacuee Muslim Landlords would be allotted to big zamindars from West Pakistan.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Is the Government going to provide houses to these tenants who would be ejected at the time of allotment ?

Minister : Government would surely make all possible arrangements to provide houses to those who would be ejected at the time of allotment.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the old tenants of big evacuee Muslim landlords in the villages of Barkatabad, Chhuchakbad and other villages, have been cultivating their land since long ?

Mr. Speaker : This question is not relevant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that in two villages of Rohtak District, the whole of land belonging to the big evacuee Muslim Landlords has been allotted to the refugees and that the tenants of these lands are going to be ejected ? In view of this fact, is it the intention of the Government to provide land to these tenants with a view to rehabilitate them ?

Minister : I have no information about it. However, I assure the hon. Member that I shall look into this matter.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

VILLAGE HEADMAN.

456. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state whether in any small town or municipal committees of Amritsar District any village headman is a permanent employee of any local body; if so their number and the action the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : Part I. Yes.

Part II. One.

Part III. No action is called for because village headmen are not debarred from taking employment under local bodies.

JHALLARS FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

457. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the zamindars of village Gajjal, District Amritsar, have been advised and allowed to put up Jhallars for irrigation purposes in view of the reply supplied to me vide unstarred Question No 144 put on 7.3.49 during the budget session of the Assembly ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : There is no mention of village Gajjal, District Amritsar, in the unstarred question No 144 by Sardar Sajjan Singh, M.L.A., put on 7.3.49. That question relates to village Subrai at the tail of Khara Distributary.

2. Rules do not require special permission of the department to put up Jhallars on their watercourse for irrigating high areas which are included in chak and rank for canal water and therefore the question of zamindars of village Gajjal having been advised and allowed by the department to put up Jhallars does not arise.

AREA IRRIGATED IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF PATTI TEHSIL.

458. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area under the command of the canal outlets in villages, Subrai Thatti Jaimal Singh, Mastgarh, Kala, Prandi-put, Sobha Singh, Booh, and Talwandi Musadda Singh, of Tehsil patti. District Amritsar; together with the total area of these villages irrigated by these outlets ;
- (b) The total area permissible for irrigation in each of the aforesaid villages and the grand total of all ;
- (c) (i) the total area actually irrigated in each of the aforesaid villages during the year 1946-47, 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;
- (ii) The grand total of the area in all the villages which was thus irrigated in each of the aforesaid years separately.
- (d) whether there has been any deficiency in any of the aforesaid villages in the irrigated area during the aforesaid period; if so,

the steps taken by the Government for the irrigation of the area which could not be sown for want of water in the aforesaid villages ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) (b) (c) (i) & (ii) The Statement giving the required information is placed on the table¹. Figures for 1949-50 are not yet available.

- (d) Yes. There has been both increase and decrease in the actual area irrigated in these villages. The total decrease is only 4.5%. The noticeable decrease is in the case of villages Thathi Jaimal Singh, Masatgarh and Kala. It is due to the fact that these villages are just on the Pakistan Border and not due to any deficiency in the Canal Water.

**IRRIGATION OF VILLAGES KOT NANABAD AND MUSADDA SINGH-
WALA IN TEHSIL PATTI.**

459. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the area of outer section of village Kot Nanabad and village Musada Singh Wala, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar is irrigated by the canal water;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the water of wells of these villages is suitable for irrigation purposes ;
- (c) whether the landowners of the aforesaid villages applied to the canal authorities of the Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar for the supply of canal water to their barani lands during the year 1949-50;
- (d) whether the lands owned by the owners of the aforesaid villages at village Kot Rai Bidha, Tehsil Patti were washed away by a river flood a few years ago, making their position worse ?
- (e) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative and to part (c) be in the affirmative, the steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No. (There is no village named Musadda Singh Wala in Patti Tehsil).

- (b) Yes,
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Does not arise.

**REPRESENTATION FOR BUILDING A BRIDGE ON CANAL
DISTRIBUTARY.**

460. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any representation by Sardar Desa Singh and other Zamindars of village Kalsian Khurd, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, duly endorsed by me were received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, and the canal authorities ;
- (b) whether in the aforesaid representation the zamindars complained that there was no bridge over the Gillpan Distributary which passes through their fields, in the absence of which they cannot carry their manure to the fields which are situated on the other side of the distributary and that Rs. 300/- be paid to them as a partial cost for the construction of the bridge over this Distributary ; if so, the action so far taken by the canal authorities in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargawa : (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes, but their complaint was not correct as two bridges already exist within one mile of the site at which a new bridge was wanted.

WAITING ROOMS ATTACHED TO CRIMINAL COURTS.

461. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the enquiry undertaken by the Government vide my unstarred Assembly question No. 284 put on 10-10-49 has been completed ; if so, what decision has been arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargawa : First part ... Yes

Second part ... Government are unable to proceed with the proposal for the present owing to financial stringency.

**DAILY ALLOWANCE TO POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SUBORDINATE
SERVICES.**

462. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any of the police employees in the subordinate services are given a daily allowance when they travel by rail or road on the authority of a railway pass or motor lorry voucher by the police department authorities ;

- (b) whether any of the persons referred to above travels by road or rail at his own expense and puts up the bill regarding the expenditure incurred by him; whether before or after undertaking the journey, he is paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ time the actual fare;
- (c) (i) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative the reasons for the different standards of payment for road and rail transport;
- (ii) the system which is more costly out of the two;
- (d) whether there is any time limit for the payment of the bills referred to in part (b) above; if so, the minimum period within which these bills are paid?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) (i) The police employees in the subordinate services are given half daily allowance when travelling on the authority of railway warrant.

(ii) No daily allowance is given in respect of journeys performed by public buses when lorry vouchers are issued.

- (b) When journeys are performed outside the sphere of duty, officers are paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ of the actual fare.
- (c) Travelling by road is more costly than by train as the rate of mileage allowance by road is more than that by rail in force.
- (d) These bills are generally paid within one month from the date of presentation in police office.

WATER SUPPLY AND KALKA MUNICIPALITY.

463: Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the municipality of Kalka has repeatedly represented to the Government about the difficulty of adequate supply of water in the town and has approached the Government for financing its water scheme;
- (b) whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that this town of more than 15 thousand population has only one small natural water reservoir and the public experiences great hardship, especially during the summer; if so, whether the Government intends to take suitable steps to remove this difficulty?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) No; but a representation was received from certain members of the public.

- (b) The Municipal Committee is getting estimates for a water supply scheme prepared.

LABOURERS AT BHAKRA AND NANGAL WORKS

484. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of skilled and unskilled labourers employed at present at the Bhakra and Nangal works by the Government;
- (b) the total number of permanent and temporary workers under the Government employment at these works at present ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Labourers employed at Bhakra and Nangal works.

Skilled ... 3,781

Unskilled ... 11,263

- (b) Staff and officers employed on Nangal Bhakra Works :

Permanent. 240

Temporary. 487

DEFICIT AND PRODUCTION OF FOOD-GRAINS.

485. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total deficit of food grains in the State during the years, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and the estimated deficit for the year, 1950-51 ;
- (b) the total production of food grains in the State during the years, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and the estimated production for 1950-51 ;
- (c) the effect of the Grow More Food Campaign on the production of food grains in the State ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(a) 1947-48 ... 269,000 tons.

1948-49 ... 145,000 tons.

1949-50 } ... Complete information not yet available.
1950-51 }

(b) 1947-48 ... 23,35,000 tons.

1948-49 ... 24,59,000 tons.

1949-50 } ... Complete information not available.
1950-51 }

- (c) The additional irrigation from canals during 1949-50 under Grow More Food Schemes has been provided to about 2 lakhs acres of land and it will be increased to 3,45,000 acres during Kharif

and Rabi, 1950-51. This will result in additional yield of food grains of about 40,000 tons during 1949-50 and about 70,000 tons during 1950-51. The other Grow More Food Schemes such as sinking of percolation wells, tubewells, land reclamation and mechanical cultivation, anti-erosion, soil conservation etc., are estimated to give an additional yield of 20,000 tons during 1949-50 and about 50,000 tons during 1950-51. In calculating these figures, the additional yield expected to accrue from such schemes as destruction of monkeys, rats and jackals, domestication of wild cows, pitting of manure etc., has not been taken into consideration as it is not possible to do so with accuracy.

REVENUE RECORD JAMABANDIS OF VILLAGE ORARA.

466. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the revenue records jamabandis of village Orara, Tahsil Kasur, district Lahore, have been received from Pakistan ;
- (b) the total area of land of S. Chanan Singh and Behal Singh s/o Kak Singh respectively in Shamlat Deh and the area to which each of them is entitled ;
- (c) the reasons for not preparing the chhant from the jamabandis of S. Chanan Singh referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 395 (d) put on 8-3-1950 ;
- (d) whether any deductions are proposed to be made from the allotments due to the persons referred to in unstarred question No. 395 (d) mentioned above on account of their exaggerated claims of land. If so to what extent together with a list of such persons ;
- (e) the total area deducted from allotment due to each person referred to in part (c) above under the Law of penalties explained in reply to my unstarred question No. 395-F put during the Budget Session of 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

* b) Chanan Singh s/o *Lal Singh
Bahal Singh s/o Lal Singh

| Total area in
Shamlat Deh. | | | Total area
entitled. | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---|-------------------------|-------|
| A | K | M | S. A. | Units |
| 13 | ... | 8 | 39 | 13 |
| 13 | ... | 8 | 39 | 13 |

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

(c) As no land is for the present being allotted in lieu of Shamlat land left in Pakistan the chhant of this area has not been prepared.

(d) Necessary steps are being taken in the matter.

(e) Final decisions will be taken after hearing the claimants. Actual deductions have not so far been made.

*Note : S. Chanan Singh and Bahal Singh are the sons of S. Lal Singh and not Kak Singh as shown in the Assembly Question.

BOATMEN OF HARIKE FERRY.

467. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware that Sardar Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M. L. A. sent a letter (No. 32 dated the 9th January, 1950) to the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., regarding boatmen of Harike Ferry ;

(b) the action if any taken by the authorities in the matter raised in the letter ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter was investigated by the Superintending Engineer, Jullundur, and his report which has been just received is under consideration.

SHRI KANWAR SEN SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER IRRIGATION.

468. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Kanwar Sen Superintending Engineer, Irrigation, proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement in Joint Punjab ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri Kanwar Sen was taken back in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch from the day he proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement and his services transferred to Government of India, entitling him to be treated as a Government Servant under the Punjab Government from that day ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

SHRI P. R. AHUJA ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION.

469. Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Shri P. R. Ahuja is an Assistant Executive Engineer of Irrigation Branch, Punjab, with about 12 years service ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the Irrigation Branch Engineers have to pass departmental examinations within a certain number of years, failing that their increments are stopped ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Shri Ahuja has not passed both the examinations ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that he has been exempted from passing the above examinations ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 15-8-47 TO 31-3-48.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir I lay on the table the Appropriation Accounts for the period from 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948 and the Audit Report thereon.

AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PROCEDURE.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have amended rule 148 (2) and instead of at 5, the guillotine will be applied at 6 O'clock to enable the hon. Members to have three hours for the discussion of the Appropriation Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order. In other Assemblies two days are given for the discussion of the Appropriation Bill and here only one day is given.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is no point of order. In order to enable hon. Members to have more time I have amended the Rule.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I beg to introduce the Punjab Appropriation Bill.

Chief Minister : I move—

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, when we look to the demands for grants that have been passed by the House and to the actual needs of the State, we find that we are passing through a difficult stage as our resources are limited whereas our needs are more. When our State is confronted with such a situation then every Minister has to carefully examine the statements of requirements of every department and see which requirements should take precedence and which are of secondary importance. I, will, therefore, make a few suggestions in this connection for the consideration of the Government.

Firstly, it is essential that the Government should raise the morale of the people especially those living in the border districts. It should give them the necessary facilities to protect themselves and should encourage them so that they may be able to stand firm like a rock to face any situation that might develop. I would, therefore, like to focus the attention of the Government to this point that it should devote its attention to raise the morale of all the people in the State in general and the people of the border districts in particular. With this end in view, it is imperative to give military training on a large scale to the people. I would, therefore, not like to analyse the Budget figures and say anything with regard to the allocation of funds to the various departments. But I would only like to make a few suggestions and trust that if they are carried out it will contribute to the well-being of the State. It need hardly be emphasised that military training is necessary for the students for their sound health and to foster in them a habit of discipline and other kindred virtues. The Government should, therefore, make necessary arrangements for giving military training to the students. I wish that we should be able to create enthusiasm and glow in the minds of the people. We should create in the people a living faith and positive outlook on life so that they may be able to take real interest in life. You know, Sir, that the people in our State have made great sacrifices in the struggle for freedom. Our countrymen and women have undergone many hardships and sufferings for the cause of the nation. Many of us have suffered imprisonment and also went to the gallows with a smile in order that India be free. I, therefore, feel that the need of the hour is to infuse spirit in the minds of the people and place before them an ideal for which they may yearn to live. It is only when the collective consciousness

of the people is awakened that they respond to the call of nation. I know when England was in the throes of the War, its leaders inspired hope and confidence in the minds of the people and thus they displayed great fortitude and indomitable spirit to make great sacrifices for the cause of the nation. The Government should, therefore, place before the people a high ideal and should inculcate in them courage, confidence and enthusiasm. I know this task is beset with difficulties but all the same Government should do its best to awaken the national consciousness of the people and to mould them to follow a right path so that they may not think any sacrifice too great for the cause of the nation. This they can only do if they know how to steer clear of their difficulties in spite of great odds and even if they meet with failure, they act like courageous men and exert themselves with redoubled vigour. Besides this, the Government should give an assurance that justice will be done to every individual irrespective of any consideration. It should impress upon the masses that the sum of 43 crores of rupees will be spent for the benefit of the people and every pie of the money will be best utilised. So in my humble opinion the Government should foster a feeling of confidence among the people that even-handed justice will be administered to them. I fully realise that it is not possible for the hon. Ministers alone to serve in the interests of the people unless they have the willing co-operation of the services. They should impress upon the services by all means at their command to rise above their narrow considerations and do justice to all. I know that people do not feel so much difficulty if there is shortage of food grains or other commodities in the State but it certainly pinches them when they find that undeserving persons enjoy the fruits of success in life. With this end in view, the services should be made independent and free to act without any interference. For this Ministers will have to exercise great restraint as they will have in fact to deny all powers that vest in them by virtue of holding a high office. If we want that our State should make the desired progress, we should entrust all powers to the services so that they may be able to act independently in the work of administration in order to administer justice to all.

Some of my friends always join issue with me, when I praise the work done by the services and describe the important role that they have to play in the administration of a democratic country. I have no objection to make, so far as the change of personnel is concerned but I must deprecate any attempt at condemning the services wholesale. If the administrative machinery has to function smoothly and efficiently, they must be trusted and full confidence must be reposed in them. So far as the question of eradication of corruption and slackness is concerned, I would be the last person to advocate soft measures. This question must be dealt with with an iron hand, but the

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blow should be struck at the right moment. But at the same time, praise and encouragement should not be grudged where they are well deserved. The greastest need of the hour is to imbue the services as well as the people in general with a spirit of enthusiasm, which is sorely lacking in us to-day. Increasing contact and understanding between the Ministers and services, constitute the prime requisite of a good administration. This fact should never be lost sight of. In this connection, my humble suggestion to the hon. Chief Minister is that conferences of District officers should be called from time to time to make a high level approach to various administrative matters.

Another matter of which I wish to make a brief mention is the cut in the salaries of Ministers. Sir, I really feel that sometimes too much is expected of the Ministers. Now the cut that they have voluntarily imposed, was really uncalled for. I don't think under the present standard and mode of living any Minister can live within Rs.1,200 or so per mensem, without having had to spend from his own pocket. This salary is insufficient for a modern way of life and then just imagine the number of guests that a Minister has to entertain almost every day. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the present system will have to be changed radically and the mode of living simplified, until the revenues of the State increase sufficiently, towards which end strenuous efforts must be made. Sir to simplify the office procedure and to eliminate red-tapism, a Reorganization Committee had been appointed sometime back. I don't know how far it has progressed in its work. I would request the Government to ask the Committee to expedite its proposals, so that the reforms that are long overdue may be introduced.

Now a few words about our system of education. As my Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has stated, at the present pace, it will take us 50 years or even more to make the whole population literate. Already the present system of education is costing the State Exchequer so much. Sir, even if we have to teach only three R's to the whole population, there is no other alternative for us but to work on a mass scale. For this purpose, we have to adopt methods, and means of mass education, by a proper use of the radio and cinema. These two agencies alone can provide us the means to disseminate knowledge on a vast scale. And then our education must not be hap-hazard. It must conform to the kind of society we want to have in this country. It must aim at making the people fit for the way of life that we want them to adopt. It must equip them properly for the responsibilities that we want them to discharge. In short, our system of education must be co-related to the end we have in view, whether it is the moral regeneration of the people, their spiritual upliftment or cultivation of physical and military efficiency on their part. Of course, we want to develop our people into good citizens, law-biding and free from vices of drinking and gambling, but it is also

true that we can achieve these things only if our education is properly directed.

More important than education is another problem to which happily our Government is giving priority over other matters and there can be no doubt about it that it is a question of life and death for this State. Sir, I am referring to the problem of having more water for irrigating the arid and thirsty lands of this State. (*Cheers.*) We are sorry to learn that our Government cannot afford more money for this purpose, as much help from the Government of India would not be available as it otherwise would have been.

Minister for Development : This is not correct.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Well if this is not correct, I shall not dwell upon it. Sir, even at the risk of being dubbed a reactionary, I would say that if the decision in the matter were to rest with me, I would give priority to schemes of improving irrigational facilities over any scheme of universal literacy. So long as more water is not available for irrigation purposes agriculture will not progress and so long as agricultural industry does not progress, we cannot be self-sufficient in food-grains and other essential articles of food such as milk and ghee. Sir, I am laying so much stress on cultivation on purpose. We have land and also men who are wonderful tillers. If necessary facilities are given to them, I have no doubt that they would be able to supply all our needs. milk, butter and wheat etc., will be produced in plenty and we will be in a position to bring up warriors of the right type for the defence of the country. It is therefore incumbent on us to undertake such schemes as are helpful to our cultivator.

One thing which I specifically wish to bring to the notice of the Government is the fact that it should take serious and solemn steps to reduce expenditure. I agree that our needs are multiplying every day in this modern world, and that our standard of life is rising but it is no use spending for the maintenance of false standards. It would be better if a committee of experts is appointed to go into this question and suggest ways and means for curtailing un-necessary expenditure. The money thus saved—of course it cannot be in crores, it may be some lakhs—can be utilized for setting up industries in rural areas. I am one of those persons who do not like big towns. Big towns come into existence only when people haven't got enough land in the villages to maintain them. From strategy point of view also it is more advisable to have more villages than towns as the hydrogen and the atom bombs cannot work as big a havoc in villages as they can in towns which have thick population. However, I request that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to give up the old futile traditions and

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embark on useful schemes which go to solve our numerous problems like the tenants, refugees and unemployment problems and bring about prosperity in the State. If we do this we may be able to live well otherwise we will be at the mercy of the circumstances.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the budget having reached the stage of Appropriation Bill should be regarded to have reached its destination. However, I have apprehensions that the term 'Appropriation' might change in to "Misappropriation" in actual practice. My fears arise from the fact that during the course of discussion on different Departments of Government, so much criticism has been made by the hon. Members of this House but nobody has bothered to give a proper reply. The performance of the hon. Ministers has been very disappointing and I am led to think that they will not be able to prove equal to the task that is being entrusted to them. We have placed a number of complaints before them regarding allotment of lands and houses, the difficulties of the tenants and the Education Department, but to no purpose. They have made absolutely no attempt to satisfy us. I should be excused if I say that the hon. Chief Minister is creating bad conventions by shouldering the responsibility of giving all answers himself. He should encourage the Ministers concerned to do the needful. His act may do him credit all right but it is certainly calculated to do discredit to the Ministry as a whole. I have genuine fears that the money which is being placed at the disposal of these Ministers will not be properly used and all this deplorable state of affairs is due to the fact that unfortunately we have thought it fit to divide ourselves into different groups.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member should leave the groups aside.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, the other day the hon. Chief Minister threatened the House that in case he was not considered fit for his job he as also his Budget should be thrown out. I don't think it was proper for him to give such a threat. I honestly believe that if the Budget is to be considered on its merits, barring the hon. Chief Minister, the Ministry is not up to the task. I daresay that people who have been given the onerous work of running the Government are not capable of doing it. They would not have been able to earn even a hundred rupees a month in case they had not worked for the Congress.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : May I ask the hon. Member not to make such remarks ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I am making a general statement which can apply to other provinces also.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : He cannot make any general statement like this. He should confine himself to the Appropriation Bill.

Chaudhri Khishna Gopal Dutt : I am speaking on the political aspect of the budget.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not the political aspect of the budget which is to be considered but it is the administrative policy of the Government which should be discussed. Otherwise this House will turn into an arena of group politics and I don't want that to happen here.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I have every right to attack the Ministry as this is a sort of general discussion of the budget.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Then the hon. Member does not know what is to be discussed. The hon. Member cannot criticise any group or party politics. He should discuss the administrative policy of the Government; only that I am prepared to hear.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I want to say that I am discussing the Budget and I have every right to say that in the light of the prevailing conditions in the State, I doubt if the departments for the administration of which this budget has been passed, will be worked with success. I don't think it is possible in the present circumstances. Sir, whenever I stand up to speak you interrupt me so much that I begin to think whether I have a right to speak in the House or not and much of my time is taken up in convincing you.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't interrupt the hon. Member but the difficulty is that he speaks in such a manner that I have to draw his attention to the Rules of Debate.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I was referring to some unpleasant facts but I feel it is my right to do so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I want to draw your attention to page 711 of May's Parliamentary Practice. It is clearly stated there that while discussing the Appropriation Bill a Member is perfectly within his rights to discuss the, "Conduct or action of those who receive or administer the grants specified in the Bill". In this case Ministers receive these grants, therefore, the hon. Member is within his rights to attack the conduct of the Ministers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is within his rights to criticize the working of the departments but he cannot cast reflections on the House or on the Ministers. In that case I would refer the hon. Member to the Rules of Procedure of the House. A remedy is open to him. He can bring in a substantive motion against the Ministry as a whole or against any particular Minister.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, should the House understand that the Ministry as a whole cannot be attacked or criticized ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Ministry as a whole can be criticized so far as its administrative responsibility is concerned but the hon. Member should not cast any reflections on any Minister.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A Minister can be criticized so far as his administrative capacity to handle the budget is concerned.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I wish to submit, Sir, that conditions in our State are unfortunately such - similar conditions prevail in other provinces also—that plainly speaking, barring the Chief Minister the whole Ministry is not equal to the task of re-habilitation and resettlement. It is my right.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The best course for the hon. Member would be to bring in a substantive motion and then he would be able to say everything.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I would be well within my rights when I say that the Ministry.....

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I am sorry to interrupt my hon. Friend but I would like your Ruling on the point whether this House has a right to throw out the Appropriation Bill as a whole ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes.....

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, if we have a right to throw out this Bill then surely every Member has a right to attack any aspect of the Bill.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I will refer the hon. Member to the Rules of Debate. I will read rule 78 (2) (i).

A member while speaking shall not reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion.

If in conformity with the Rules and in accordance with the Parliamentary practice the hon. Member wants to bring in a vote of censure against the Ministry as a whole I will have no objection.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : With your permission may I know how the budget can be discussed without making reference to the Ministers and the Ministry ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Budget can be discussed within the four walls of the Rules of Procedure. When the hon. Member was speaking I did not interrupt him because he was following the Rules. I want to assure the House that I would be the last person to restrict any Member while he is speaking, so long as he is following the Rules of Debate. But he must be within the limits laid down, he should not refer to individuals in their personal capacity. Ministers should be criticized in their capacity as Ministers and not as individuals.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, continuing my speech I seek your co-operation.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member needs my co-operation, he too should co-operate with me by following the Rules.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I was submitting, Sir, that while speaking on this Budget, the Chief Minister challenged the House to defeat him on his Budget. It was not proper for him to rely on the strength of majority in this House. I wish that instead of throwing challenges, the Budget had been discussed on its merits. As Chief Minister of the State, he is answerable to me, to the Members of this House and to every common man in the province. I shall request the Chief Minister to withdraw the threats held out by him. He should pay full attention to the views expressed by the Members and it should be his effort to remove the complaints voiced by them. It is his duty to ask for the co-operation of the Members. Unfortunately he has adopted such an attitude that he does not consult anybody. The House is meant for consultation and Members should be consulted. In connection with the Chief Minister's challenge to throw him out and to throw out his Budget, I wish to submit, Sir, that being Members of the Congress party we are helpless in this respect.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't take notice whether a particular Member belongs to the Congress Party or any other party. I only see to it that he is relevant.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am sorry to get up again but is it not within the knowledge of the hon. Speaker as to whether a particular Member belongs to a particular party or not?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I am not concerned with this. In the House I take every member as a member of the House and do not consider his party affiliations.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. I don't wish to take more of the time of this House. In the end, I wish to say that with the amount that has been made available in the budget for reconstruction I don't think any rapid progress can be made in this direction. There is doubt about the success of any scheme because those in whose hands the work has been entrusted are not competent at all. They cannot undertake the work of reconstruction. But, Sir, it is our own budget and being a Member of the Congress party I must give my support to it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division Landholders) : Sir, we have once again heard from Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt today, what is popularly known as the popular sentiment. For some people Sir, there is only one game and that game is criticising the Government. In season and out of season they will try to present that the Government is most inefficient,

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the officers are corrupt and nothing is going on well in the "State of Punjab. Sir, I say with a very heavy heart that this is a very irresponsible attitude. This loose talk is doing us a very great harm. Instead of indulging in this loose talk we should combine in the national interests and strive to bring out results which should add to the prosperity of the State. All these days I have been noting what has been going on in the press regarding what has been said on the floor of this House. In 95 percent writings of the press you will find it stated that the Government is inefficient here, nothing good is happening in the Punjab and the administration is most corrupt. Leave aside the demoralising effect of such writings within the State itself. What is our stock with the Central Government and the rest of the country? Again I say with a very heavy heart that if we talk to any one outside this State, people twitch their nose and say, "Oh, you are talking about the State of Punjab where M. L. As are corrupt, Government is corrupt and administration inefficient." It is not that in Government matters alone our stock is so low but even in business matters and other things also we are losing day by day. This propaganda has gone so far and the Government has not been able to stop it, that we are now being treated very shabbily even by the Central Government. To substantiate my point I will place a very recent example before you. A conference was called in New Delhi by the Industries and Supplies Ministry of the Government of India. The representative of this State pleaded for a very liberal quota of steel for agricultural implements. After a little bit of arguments a very responsible and high officer of the Government of India said, "We are unable to consider the case of Punjab because in that State any quota given by the Centre is misappropriated and more so by the legislators." I am told there was a loud laughter after this statement and of course the case of Punjab went by default, because after hearing that our representative could do nothing.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Who was the representative ?

Padit Durga Chand Kaushish : You can ask me off the floor of the House. I am not going to tell the name here. If that sort of thing is happening with the Central Government can we say, where to are we going? We know that for the reconstruction of this State we have got to depend for quite a lot of things on the Government of India. We want monetary help, technical help and other kinds of help and only Government of India can supply us these aids. If this sort of loose talk continues I am sure we will not get anything from the Centre. Sir, it is high time that we realised our responsibilities and I feel that people can only realise their responsibilities if the Government takes them into confidence and makes them feel that if they indulge in any loose talk they will be harming the cause of the State of Punjab which meant their own cause.

Now I come to the popular charge made against the administration that they are slack, inefficient and corrupt. In my opinion it is most uncharitable to dub all the members of the services as inefficient and corrupt because it is a well known fact that all of them are not inefficient nor are all of them corrupt either. If that sort of thing continues, I am afraid, even the best and sincerest of them are bound to be demoralised. If you go on calling an honest and hardworking man as dishonest and inefficient, there will be reaction and there is every chance of his becoming indolent. Who loses? It is the State as a whole and not a few individuals who go on criticizing. Sir, if this political warfare that is being carried into the realm of administration and the economic set up of the country is continued, it will completely ruin us at this critical juncture. Unfortunately for us all, even very responsible persons indulge in loose talk and if concrete steps are not taken to put an end to that loose talk, that might land us in great difficulties the results of which none can foresee. We saw a fine example of such a loose talk in this session. In the interest of Grow-More-Food campaign, our Government has taken steps to adopt mechanised methods of agriculture. What happened? There was a regular chorus in this House against that. All sorts of arguments were advanced and one of them was that that would prejudicially affect the interest of the peasantry. They could not see the interest of State; they could not see how much output of food grains would be increased if we took to modern methods of agriculture. The increase might be 75%, it might be 100%, but that does not seem to be the concern of the hon. Members who have advanced all such arguments. I would give another instance. There was a certain unspecified amount of Rs. 12 lakhs mentioned in the Budget and without bothering to look to its details, criticism was levelled against it, in spite of the fact that its details were given. Out of that sum of 12 lakhs, 4 lakhs were meant for additional equipment, another 4 lakhs for administration charges and the rest were also accounted for. What happened? The next morning when I saw the newspapers, they gave the readers an idea that money in the Punjab was being wasted and that must have been the impression in the minds of the readers outside the State as well. On this very question of Grow-More-Food, some of my colleagues brought in the tenancy problem and a very curious argument was advanced that all ejectments of tenants should be stopped forthwith if the Government wanted to improve the food situation in the country. If till such time as there is no consolidation of small holdings, the ejectment of tenants is stopped, I fail to understand in what way would that go to improve the food position. It might be the other way about. Hon. Members are aware that there are innumerable small holders who own lands. In many cases it so happens that one portion is situated at a distance of two miles from the other. In that case what land lord does is that he keeps one portion for himself and gives the other one on rent. When the loose talk of 'no ejectment' was started here, those small owners began to

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take back their lands from the tenants for fear of losing them altogether. The result is that food production as a whole is suffering.

Sir, I wanted to discuss this problem from many aspects but as my time is up, I would leave it to a later stage when a Bill on this subject comes up before the House. Through you, Sir, I would impress upon the Government the desirability of taking early steps to see that this sort of loose talk is stopped because we are becoming the laughing stock of the country and are coming down in the estimation of every one. (*Hear, hear*).

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing West Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing new in the Appropriation Bill which has been presented to the House, as many an item has been discussed threadbare when the Budget was under discussion. I think there can be no two opinions about the necessity of money required by Government under various demands for grants. But so far as Government are concerned, it is an open secret that they are not in possession of that much money which they stand in need of for the economic development of the State of Punjab. Now the question arises how and where to get that money because in its absence it is not possible to achieve our object, namely, the reconstruction of our shattered economy. It is obvious that unless our receipts are enhanced, we cannot make any headway in the field of economic advancement of our country. So our Government are faced with the problem of finding out ways and means to raise additional sums of money and spending them judiciously with a view to bring about maximum economic improvement of the people of the Punjab. In this connection I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister that the question of economic development of India as a whole has been taken up by the Central Government and for this purpose they have appointed a Planning Commission but since its terms of reference are very wide and it may take long to complete its report, I want to suggest to the hon. Chief Minister that he should appoint a Planning Committee for the Punjab. It should take stock of the situation in the State and make proposals for the exploitation of such untapped resources as may result in the increase of revenues and also suggest methods by which the increased income may be judiciously utilised for the economic betterment and development of the State of Punjab. I would further suggest that he should include in this Committee eminent experts and a number of representatives of the public and that he himself should be the Chairman of that Committee. It goes without saying that the Government are faced with serious economic problems of our State and the sooner they make endeavours to resolve them, the better would it be for all. As you are aware, Sir, economic deterioration in a country, is the precursor of a revolution in that country, because it creates unrest among the people. If we study the history of various countries where revolutions have taken place, we find that economic causes generally bring about such upheavals. So it becomes imperative for the Government

to devote their undivided attention to the resolution of economic problems besetting our State. In this connection I may point out that only recently the Congress Working Committee prepared an economic programme. I suggest that Government should try to adapt it to the conditions obtaining in this province. That economic programme is very comprehensive and it includes suggestions on agricultural, labour, industrial and kindred problems. The Government should make efforts to give them a practical shape. If this is done, I am sure, we can take rapid strides in the field of economic development of the State of Punjab. But when I talk of the economic problems, I have in view the tenants problem agitating the minds of the poor kisans. I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should take immediate and effective measures to resolve this problem so that it may not take a turn for the worse.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The hon. Member is making it look more serious than what it actually is.

Shri Virendra : This thing has been before us for a considerable time. So far as Government are concerned, we find that they are trying to solve this problem. I do realize that efforts are being made by the Government to solve this problem. I am of the opinion that sooner the entire problem is solved, the better would it be in the interests of the State as a whole. My hon. Friend has stated that it is not such an intricate problem as we imagine. Perhaps he is under the impression that the problem does not exist at all. I would like to make it clear that this problem exists in its naked form and my hon. Friends can convince themselves that what I say in this connection is based on facts. Such forces are working here in our province, which I am sure, would ultimately force the Government to solve this problem. If they do not rise to the occasion and devise ways and means to solve this problem, I am afraid, conditions would take such a turn that afterwards it would not be possible for them to control the situation. It is, therefore, necessary to take timely action. Under the circumstances, I would like to impress upon the hon. Chief Minister the urgency of solving this problem as early as possible which is becoming very intricate day by day.

Further I would like to make a few suggestions in connection with the Grow More Food schemes which have been one of the topics for the last so many days. Though I do not happen to be an agriculturist, yet I feel there are many methods which if employed, are sure to improve the agricultural system of our State. Here I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge to consider my suggestions which have a dual purpose i.e., to improve our agriculture and also make Grow More Food Campaign a success. My first suggestion is that our Government should set up Agricultural Planning Committees on the same lines as at the Centre with a view to improving the agricultural

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system of our State. In other States too such planning committees are being established to devise ways and means to improve the agricultural system according to the conditions at present prevailing in the country. Further I would like to suggest the Government to establish co-operative societies of farmers. We find such societies in other countries too. According to this scheme, the small farmers would invest their money to improve their agricultural wealth as well as their conditions. There is yet another suggestion to which I would like to invite the attention of the Government and that is regarding the Crop Insurance Scheme. I cannot say whether or not this Scheme can be implemented in our State, but still I would like to place it before the House for its consideration. According to this scheme the standing crop of the farmer is insured and in case any damage is caused to his crop, he would be paid the full price of his crop. I hope Government will consider it and see if it can be implemented in the interests of the farmers.

My hon. Friend Shri Bhim sen Sachar has in the course of his speech pointed out that if we want to make any headway in the State, we shall have to repose full confidence in the services. I quite agree with him that we shall have to repose confidence in them and that we cannot do anything without them. Here I would like to bring this point home to him that if we give a free hand to services and leave the entire work upon them, they will go on creating obstacles in our way and this they will do with some purpose. There is no doubt about it that the mentality of services in general has already changed to a great extent. But at the same time there are many amongst them whose mentality has not changed yet and if their mentality is not changed then all our efforts to make any progress would not prove successful. If we want to make any progress in our border State, we must work according to some plans. If we do this, I am sure, it will not take us more than ten years to make the desired progress which under ordinary circumstances would take us at least a century to achieve.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharina (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, before I express my views on the Bill, now before the House, I would like to quote a few verses from the poem "Sweet Auburn" about a 'Desolate Village' written by Goldsmith, which aptly apply to the conditions at present prevailing in our country in general and our State in particular. He says:—

Ill fares the land to hastening ills a pray,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,
Princes and Lords may flourish or fade,
A breath has made them and a breath can make,
But a bold peasantry their country's pride,
If once destroyed, can never be supplied

In view of the fact that our Government overcame manifold difficulties which it was faced with from time to time in connection with

the rehabilitation of the refugees and had already pent scores of rupees in this direction, it was hoped that after the inauguration of the Sovereign Republic of our country, our economic experts would pay their special attention towards devising ways and means to improve the economic conditions of our State. As is crystal clear from the above mentioned verses, we find that the present conditions are also such that the wealth is accumulating in the hands of a few, as a result of which the average class or in other words the middle class people whether they be zamindars, kisans or the labourers or even the Government servants are all living under very bad conditions. Their condition is so miserable that they are at a loss to know what to do and where to go. In fact there can be no two opinions about it and as is already clear from the above-quoted verses that a country can in no way make any progress where wealth goes on accumulating in the hands of a few, while the masses continue suffering untold hardships without any rhyme or reason and grow weaker and weaker day by day and ultimately decay. I had every expectation that now under the changed conditions some 5 or 10 years planning would be done with a view to improving the hard lot of the poor masses. This good step on behalf of our Government would have enabled us to form at least this opinion that it is really its intention to raise their standard of living. I am of the opinion that if such a step were taken by the Government, we would surely have been convinced that it was really anxious to improve the lot of the poor masses by raising their income and their standard of living.

My hon. Friends know it full well that our Punjab is the State of petty peasants and proprietors who are not in a position to improve their standard of living without the help of the Government. As a matter of fact their lot cannot be improved unless adequate steps are taken in this direction. They can increase their income provided Government starts cottage industries for them. Under the provisions of the Constitution it is the duty of the Government to ensure a living wage to people in every part of the State by various methods. This could also be done by encouraging the cottage industries. I invite the attention of the House to Article 43 of the Constitution. It is laid down therein—

The State shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to discuss the desirability of legislation.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Sir what I wish to point out is this that only those countries have progressed where the Governments have devised ways and means to encourage people in establishing cottage industries. So long as Government of a country does not undertake to encourage people in establishing various kinds of industries, no progress whatsoever can be made by that State. Under the circumstances it is the duty of the Government and the economic experts to do some economic planning with a view to improving the hard lot of the poor masses. If we want to increase the income of the poor people, Government should rise to the occasion and do some industrial planning. This, in my opinion, is the pressing need of the hour.

Sir, the Government should have taken some steps to introduce land reforms in our State. The land problem at present is causing alarm to the land owners and the tenants. The landlords on the one hand are apprehensive that they may not be compelled by the Government to relinquish their proprietary rights of their land and on the other hand the occupancy tenants are labouring under fear of ejectment with the result that the estrangement between the two classes is increasing. The Government should, therefore, bring forward some legislative measure to bridge this wide gulf between the parties.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The honourable Member should not refer to the question of legislation.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Sir, I am not referring to any legislation. I am fully conscious of the fact that the Government cannot afford to invest money at this stage on any undertaking on account of its limited resources. The sources of revenue of the State are more or less limited but even these limited sources the Government is reluctant to tap. This is evident from the fact that the Government has deferred the scheme of nationalization of transport which was discussed threadbare by the House sometime back. The nationalization schemes can only bring more revenue to the State whether it may be nationalization of transport or any other means of production. This is only by increased revenue that we can improve the economy of the State. I am of the opinion that unless the Government take a bold step to nationalize all means of production, it cannot expect substantial increase in its revenues on which depends solely the betterment of the masses. Besides this, the Government should have tried for the promotion of health measures to improve public health in accordance with the Directive Principles of the Constitution. There are many villages in our district where there is no arrangement for the supply of drinking water. I had thought that some kind of scheme would be worked out to help the people of Kangra district to get drinking water as has been done in the case of Bet ilaqa.

Mehta Ranbir Singh. (Ludhiana and Ferozepore General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the Government has presented this Budget after hard labour and careful consideration. I have been listening attentively to the speeches of hon Members on the treasury benches first on the day of general discussion and then on the day of cut motions on the demands for grants. I think it is their moral duty to support it but it is strange that they have disowned it like an illegitimate child. My honourable Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt while dealing with the different financial aspects of the Budget pointed out many defects in it but the Government has made little attempt to answer the various points raised by him. It is an established fact that it is the duty of the Government to improve the economic condition of the people but I regret to say that the Government has done very little in this direction. It has failed to provide any relief to the poor classes and has not assured freedom from want to the common man. Our Government has like a *baniya* embarked upon State Trading. The people were very much sick of this *dhotiwalla baniya* in the past and now they are almost tired of this *baniya*, Government. The officers have now-a-days attained high proficiency in fawning and groveling about the Ministers and pay little regard to the welfare of the people in the State. They would like to bask in the sunshine of their favours instead of doing anything for the good of the State. Another point that I would like to mention is that our province used to take pride for producing fine quality of wheat but now I hear that groundnut cake flour is going to be mixed with wheat flour which will naturally undermine the health of the public. The groundnut oil cake is generally used as a manure or fodder for the animals. It contains about 7 percent of nitrogen and is mostly not digestible by human beings.

Moreover, I would suggest that efforts should be made to adopt modern system of farming in order to step up production. The present cost of production is bound to be high as agriculture is carried on with old and traditional methods. I think that by the introduction of modern and scientific methods the cost of production will be appreciably lowered. It is also imperative that with a view to raising the level of production the monkeys or other wild animals which destroy the crops, should be killed. Apart from this, the Government has not tried to secure for its people freedom from disease. Whatever little arrangements have been made are confined to big towns and that too require considerable improvement.

There is no reason why all the money should be spent on providing amenities of life to the urban population. In towns, there are so many private practitioners whose help and advice is available to everyone. Then there is another important matter, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. In England there is a national scheme of health insurance

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and medical aid. It is time our Government introduced some such scheme in this State. It has in its employ so many highly paid doctors, who are at the same time carrying on private practice, and who, therefore, take little interest in the patients who visit the Government hospitals for medical aid and advice. It is important that they should no longer be allowed to do private practice. They should be compelled to render free aid to everybody who goes to them. Private practice by doctors in Government Service should be made a legal offence. The Government should employ sufficient number of doctors as well so that free medical aid is available to every person.

Only the other day, the hon. Chief Minister stated that his Government had opened two rural dispensaries during the last year. Sir, one of these dispensaries is in Ludhiana district and I know for certain that initiative in this matter was not taken by the Government and so the credit does not go to it. It was being run by the public themselves even before the partition. All that the Government has done is to accord recognition to it. There are many other dispensaries in the rural areas, which are being run by the people. Instead of providing so much money for hospitals in towns, where there are already so many private practitioners and nursing homes, why doesn't the Government take all these dispensaries in their own hands and run them properly?

Now a few words about 'freedom from ignorance'. Instead of properly utilizing the money earmarked for the education of the people, the Government is squandering it away thoughtlessly. When a private college is going to be opened at Hissar, I wonder why the Government is bent upon opening a Government College there. The Government can effect a saving and at the same time achieve its object by giving a grant to the private college and dropping the idea of opening a Government College. In this way it will have to spend only one-third of the proposed amount, and it can spend the remaining two thirds for some other useful purpose. But the Government probably thinks differently. How can it tolerate that there should be no Government College at Hissar, a place from where three of the hon. Ministers hail?

But, Sir, this Government is not a private firm or a limited company existing for the benefit of the Ministers. It owes it to the whole province to make efforts for the welfare of the people in general and to spend money towards this end. It is its duty to spend for the benefit of the people who contribute most to its coffers. If the ruralites were not contributing anything to the State revenues, there would have been some reason to ignore them but when they are contributing most, they naturally expect services and benefits in return. To waste money on financing to an unnecessary extent a college at Simla and running another at Hissar does not behove a Government which spends nothing for the benefit of the rural population.

When it has to add to its revenues, the Government turns its eyes towards the villages and when it is the question of spending, it turns its back upon them. Only the other day, I had submitted that our Government should follow the path shown by the late-lamented Mahatma Gandhi, who always pleaded the cause of the upliftment of the downtrodden and backward classes. The Government should not spend public money in any way it pleases. The Government exchequer is not the private purse of the Ministers. It must be utilized for the good of the people in general and not merely for the good of the people who wait in the form of deputations on the Ministers and humour their vanity.

Now there is another matter which I would like to impress upon this Government. Sir, it is essential for a State that all its officials from the highest to the lowest should not only be honest but that they should have a reputation for integrity and incorruptibility among the public. Unfortunately, Sir, this is not the case in our province. Not to speak of their officials, even our Ministers are not above suspicion. People talk such things about them in public places as it is very difficult for me to narrate here, nor do I think it proper to do so. For instance, if it were said about a Minister that he is giving shelter in his bungalow to his wife's nephew who is an absconder in some steel scandal case, it will surely be a bad reflection on his conduct and will bring a bad name to the Government. Again for instance if it were said that a certain Minister while going down stops at the Solon, Brewery and takes undue advantage of his official position, surely it would not redound to the credit of the Government. (*Interruption*)

An hon. Member : And if on enquiry, Mehta Sahib is found in possession of a truck, what action should be taken ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The Minister concerned should be dismissed or hanged if he does not know the action to be taken. Sir, I was stressing that Ministers, like Caesar's wife, must be above all suspicion. They should inspire confidence among the people by their unimpeachable conduct. Hon. Minister for Labour should realize that a Minister's position is entirely different from a preacher of the Arya Samaj, who may take meals with anybody and accept whatever is presented to him. The former's conduct involves the prestige of the Government and the whole State. Personally, the Ministers may not be affected but every single action of theirs has its effect on the prestige and reputation of the Government. They should not think in terms of the saying—

ਬਦਨਾਮ ਹੁਏ ਤੋ ਕਿਆ ਨਾਮ ਨ ਹੋਗਾ ।
ਬਦਨਾਮ ਹੁਏ ਤੋ ਕਿਆ ਨਾਮ ਨਾ ਹੋਗਾ !

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It is, therefore, essential that the Ministers should be very cautious, because every action of their's will have its effect on the public life according to the popular saying :—

यथा राजा तथा परजा

जसा राजा उसा परजा

They should set example of upright conduct for others. They should inspire feeling in the people that justice shall be done to all and that every case will be dealt with on its merits.

There is a great resentment among the people that even judiciary in this State is not free from the interference of the executive. In other states such as U.P., Bombay and Madras, judicial functions have been completely separated from executive functions. So long as this is not done in this province all talk of individual liberty will be nothing but sheer mockery. Those who read the ruling of the Magistrate trying steel scandal cases in Ambala, must have become aware of the manner in which the executive interferes with the work of administration of justice in this province and the potential danger of giving both kinds of functions in the same hands. Let the ruling of this Magistrate serve as an object lesson to our Government and prompt it to take immediate steps to make the judiciary independent of executive interference. It is only then that the humblest man will approach the courts for securing justice with some confidence, even if the complaint is against the Chief Minister. That will be real freedom and safeguarding of fundamental rights. There can be no justice so long as judiciary is amenable to the desires of the executive. If the executive succeeds in influencing the course of justice, people will surely say that there is no 'rule of law' and that 'might is right' so far as this State is concerned. Then, Sir, only the other day, the hon. Chief Minister had remarked that as he himself had been a revolutionary, he knew how to suppress the revolution. For his information, I might here quote a few pregnant words spoken by the great political philosopher Edmund Burke. "Revolutions are brought not by those who lack power but by those who hold power and use it badly."

I would request the hon. Ministers to give a little thought to these words. Why the jails are to-day packed with Communists? Does this not show that the Government has failed to mete out even-handed justice to all? Is it not a proof of the fact that instead of giving just treatment to all, the Government is out to suppress its political opponents? Is it not using the administrative machinery for furtherance of party purposes? Is not the Government responsible for creating such circumstances as would leave no other alternative to the people, except resorting to violence? It is time the Government gave thought to the root causes of all the ills the country

is suffering from. People will not tolerate serfdom for very long. Nobody can deceive them for all time to come. They know they are the real source of power and when their patience is exhausted, they will know how to deal with those who pay no deference to their wishes. The earlier the Government realizes its responsibility the better would it be for all concerned.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalkar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindi*: Sir, there is a saying in English. "He who pays the piper, can call the tune." But I am grieved to say that we are for that matter the people who will pay but shall not be able to call the tune. Today is the last day for discussion on the Budget and we have to examine whether through our collective efforts in this Assembly, by our discussion, criticism and offers of various suggestions to the Government, we have been able to inspire any hope and confidence among the people. As a matter of fact the people should be made to pay taxes only when they can be assured that all revenues raised from them will be spent in accordance with their desires. This is *size quæ non* of all constitutional systems that are designed on the democratic principles. The Ministers and other Government functionaries should so conduct themselves that people should have faith in their ability, integrity and earnestness. Today, I must confess that people have no such faith. Our ability is doubted and honesty is challenged.

Here I do not mean to be personal or to suggest that some of us are better than the others. I am talking of all collectively. Many of us including the ex-Ministers and present Ministers, even Members have been weighed and found wanting by the public. We are still being weighed. We must be a little introspective. We have all proved unfit for and unequal to the heavy task imposed on us by the present generation. The public is the sole Judge of what the Ministers or the Members of this House have been doing. But one thing I can affirm and without fear of any contradiction. It is that none of us, the present Ministers, or ex-Ministers, or we as Members have succeeded in inspiring that hope and confidence in their leadership, which is the need of the time and on which the moral structure of our nation is to be erected and it is time for us to seriously consider as to what is after all the reason for it. The most painful and dangerous thing in this connection is the fact that the public has no faith in the integrity of this Government. It was not only during this session but in the previous sessions also that hon. Members had repeatedly asked questions with regard to the so-called "steel scandal". The Government ought to have come with a clean conscience, should have laid all the cards on the table, taken public into full confidence and assured

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that it meant business. However, this was not done; neither by the previous Ministry nor by the present one.

What pained me most today, was the judgement delivered by Diwan Hukam Chand who had been appointed to deal with the steel cases. He has passed severe strictures on the Government. Now I wish that the Government takes a hint from this judgement and refrains from interfering in judicial matters in future. Its interference rouses unnecessary suspicion. It should act in an impartial and straight-forward manner. We have to hang our heads in shame when we find such strictures passed against our Government - a Congress Government.

The other thing that I wish to bring is that our Government is in the habit of doing things very slowly. It does things when all grace is lost. When I went to my constituents during the days of my election campaign, I spoke to my constituents about the thirteen or fourteen acts that our Central Legislature had enacted for the benefit of labour. Legislation is on the statute book today, but naturally the Centre has left it to the option of the State Governments to put these laws into operation as and when it deems proper. But these acts are placed in our province in a "cold storage". They are a dead letter. And today, my constituents question me, where are those laws that had been designed to protect the workers, rights. What can I reply? They feel as if they had been deceived. Who is responsible for all that? Why does not our Government exhibit a little promptitude, a little earnestness? Let us for example take the Minimum Wage Act. It was to have effect from the 1st of March, but only a Committee was appointed on that date to go into this question. And this is not all. A lot of unnecessary conflict is going on between the Labour Department and the Industries Department of the Government. The Labour Department appears to be concentrating on the interests of labour and the Industries Department on those of the Industrialists and the pity is that nobody bothers to resolve their differences. So far the duties and scope of these two departments have not been clearly defined. Some of the Labour Laws are administered by the Labour Department and some by the Industries Department. Consequently there is no coordination, no common policy. It is simply disgusting to see the poor workers arrested and sent to prison whenever they attempt to voice their demands. Bans are imposed on their peaceful activities and their movement is suppressed. Even at this time a considerable number of them is rotting in the Amritsar jail. A large number of workers is sent to jail as a result of their Trade Union activities. Whoever raises a voice of justice for the worker, is suspected to be a Communist. Our Government sees Communists everywhere. They have become a nightmare. This fear complex has been responsible for sending

any number of promising and innocent youngmen into detention. I would certainly not object if those who are arrested are regularly prosecuted under the law in the ordinary courts for their offences but just to arrest them and detain them by an executive order is most reprehensible. No civilized Government professing democracy could be proud of this. His Excellency the Governor was pleased to say the other day in his address that peace prevailed throughout the State but what kind of peace is it? This is the peace of the grave. I am forced to say that this peace is not a jot different from that which prevailed during the British rule during the years from 1942 to 1945 in India. After going through the great ordeal of those days of repression and having experienced all that, I with Congress Government could have set a better example. They should have proved more the men of the people, and should have more relied on the enlightened public opinion for the suppression of the unhealthy tendencies than on their bullets, bayonets and prisons. This state of affairs is a slur on the fair name of the Congress. What is in fact wanted is that we should create such conditions in the State, such a living, strong and effective public opinion that there should be no necessity to take shelter behind repressive laws. The need for making some persons as 'detenus' should not at all arise. I am not talking of mere impracticable idealism. We must practice, what we have so long professed, otherwise, we too are made of the same poor clay. There appears to be a police raj now-a-days in the State. In 1946-47 a sum of Rs. 2,42,00,000 was spent on police but in the Budget before us for 1950-51, a provision has been made for Rs. 2,48,00,000 for this Department. I fail to find the reason of increase in expenditure when after Partition our population is only 40 per cent of that of the united Punjab.

Sir, the other day, my hon. Friend Shri Virendra gave a valuable suggestion when he said that a planning commission be appointed for the benefit of the State. I do not know why this idea was ridiculed by some. It was not proper for anybody to do so. It really gave me a painful shock, when all the hon. Members, and the Leader of the House the Chief Minister stood up the other day and ridiculed the economic experts. He is himself an expert in his own profession. He was talking about the economists just in the strain as the most ignorant quacks talk of the expert medical men. This is the age of science, and no man having a scientific mind can ridicule fellow scientists.

I think it is in the fitness of things that experts from other States be invited to suggest us ways and means for our economic reorganisation. It is dangerous to depend on and be led by services, particularly in the matter of framing policies. These services were at one time called

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bureaucracy but I think it is better to call them "brakeocracy" as they have always served and are still serving as brakes on our onward march.

Our Prime Minister recently remarked that he saw brakes and brakes in the Governmental structure; as soon as one was removed another stuck and checked the progress. Unfortunately, our Ministers have entangled themselves in the intricacies of the official routines they remain buried under huge piles of files, and get no time for independent thinking. This is a perilous state of affairs. Our Ministers should not lose touch with the people, or else they would lose all their charm. So long as the Ministry does not take bold steps in defiance of the services, matters cannot be set right. Today our Ministers rely more on the services than on their own life-long colleagues. It was promised that tenancy legislation would be passed in this session. Why no Bill has been brought on that subject? I know the bureaucracy which represents the vested interests stands in the way. So long as we do not get rid of the bureaucratic mentality and red-tapism, we can make no progress. At the same time, I feel that the hon. Ministers cannot take any bold step till they have full support of the Members of this House. If every day an attempt is made to obtain signatures of the Members on a motion of confidence, or no confidence, the condition cannot be improved. If we wish to act earnestly and seriously for the progress of the State, we should support the Government which we once decide to set up. So long as we, the Members of this House, do not assure the Government of our full and loyal support, it cannot do any substantial work for the prosperity of the State.

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we discussed the Budget for about eight days and now we are considering the Appropriation Bill. Several hon. Members voiced the views of the ruralites. The hon. Ministers also stated that they had great sympathy with them and were doing several things for their benefit. Everybody must have come to know from a study of the Budget whether something had actually been done for them. It is only lip sympathy to say that the Government was anxious to improve the lot of the ruralites. There is saying in Punjab:

ਬਹੁਣ ਘਰ ਬਾਹਰ ਤੇਰਾ ਪਰ ਝਿਕਕੇ ਹਥ ਨ ਲਾਵੀਂ
ਬਹੁਣੇ ਘਰ ਬਾਹਰ ਤੇਰਾ ਪਰ ਛਿਕੇ ਹਥ ਨ ਲਾਵੀਂ

In other words, the Government was loud in expressing its concern for the ruralites but did not have the least feeling for them. In the whole of the Budget, there is no provision for the opening of new schools or hospitals in

the rural areas. If some dispensaries already exist, no provision has been made for the supply of sufficient medicines to these. On the contrary, the ruralites have been burdened with several kinds of taxes. They have to pay the local-rate, the taxes imposed by the Panchayats and now the water rate has also been increased. These people say that they expected reduction in taxes when the Congress came into power but their expectations have been completely belied. Many staunch Congressites are sitting here who say that they would do their best to ameliorate the condition of the ruralites. There is a saying in persian which means that by the time the remedy is applied, the sufferer would have perished. I am at a loss to understand as to when these Congress Ministers, members of the Legislative Assembly and the services would do something for these people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a resident of Kangra you know the condition of that district. Its roads are in such a bad condition that one cannot go to Hamirpur for about four months in the rainy season. If a military sepoy on leave wishes to reach his village in Hamirpur Tehsil, he has to carry his luggage on his back and walk for several miles through water. When the Commander-in-chief and the hon. Defence Minister paid a visit to Palampur, they promised to improve the condition of roads in my district but nothing has been done so far. No new school has been opened at any place in the district. In the schools which already exist, two shifts are arranged for the education of students. Some boys study in the morning and others in the afternoon. In the case of some places, the residents of the area have promised to meet any loss which may have to be incurred by the opening of new schools. The Government or the District Boards will have to incur no additional expenditure.

Chief Minister : Has the District Board Kangra undertaken to make good any loss which may be caused by the opening of new schools ?

An hon. Member : A new school has been opened in Dalhousie.

Thakur Dalip Singh : The residents of the villages have undertaken to meet any loss which may be caused. It is said that a new school has been opened in Dalhousie. It has been done for the benefit of the children of officers living there and not for the poor villagers. Dalhousie alone is in this State and it is surrounded on all sides by the territory of Himachal Pradesh. A school already existed in Dalhousie and the one which has now been opened is meant for the children of Government servants posted there. Whenever some suggestion is made for the provision of better facilities in my district, it is said that 'Kangra can wait.' I am unable to understand when the task of fresh resettlement of land will be taken up in this district. Instead of providing more facilities, those which already existed are being taken away. This has been the case with motor-transport. To start with, the Government has decided to nationalise motor-transport of Kangra district.

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In connection with the 'Grow-More-Food Scheme', I beg to submit that there is plenty of water available in Kangra district but all of it goes waste. The Government has not spent a penny in providing means of irrigation in this district. People have constructed a few water-courses at their own expense. I shall request the Government to make permanent the temporary canal-division which has recently been opened in Kangra. It is the duty of the Government to take the task of irrigation in its own hands. If the water flowing in streamlets and Khuds is properly harnessed and a permanent office of the canal department is opened in Kangra, half of its area can be brought under cultivation. If suitable arrangement is made with the help of hydrants, Hamirpur and Dehra Tehsils can be supplied as much water as they require. Similarly, if dams can be constructed on these perennial *chos*, large areas of land can be brought under cultivation.

As regards hospitals, in an answer to my question put some days back, the hon. Chief Minister stated that eighteen hospitals have been opened in Kangra District during this year. But I regret to say that no such hospitals have been opened in Kangra District during this year. Either the information supplied to the Chief Minister is incorrect or he gave the answer without caring to think. I can state for his information that not a single hospital has been opened in Kangra District during this year. However, we shall feel obliged if steps are taken to open them now.

Now Sir, I come to the condition of the existing hospitals. I can say without any hesitation that it is far from satisfactory. This reminds me of those days when we used to criticize the administration under the British. Then we used to say that the condition of the hospitals was such that pure water was administered to the patients under misleading labels pasted on the bottles. The quantity as well as the quality of medicines was bad, resulting in little benefit or comfort to the patients. I am sorry to note that the same state of affairs continues even to day and no improvement appears to be made. The doctors complain that meagre sums are made available for medicines with the result that they are compelled to mix water.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Water has to be added to medicines while administering it to the patients.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Of course, I admit that. But there must be some limit to this process of dilution. I hope that the condition of hospitals will be improved. Better medicines and equipment should be provided. The scheme of touring dispensaries which was once considered in undivided Punjab should be taken up again and it should be given a practical shape soon. Motors may be used where they can reach. Otherwise, ponies may be utilized for taking medical aid to out of the way places. These are some of the important points to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government

and I do hope that in view of the needs of the villagers our Government will try to consider my views and put them into practical shape as far as possible.

(At this stage, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair)

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West General Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the speeches delivered in the House to-day and during the course of Budget discussions give an impression that the Chief Minister belongs to the Congress Party while many of the speakers belong to some other party. This undesirable practice of making destructive and useless criticism should be avoided. It has been stated in some quarters that there has been no planning and that no new schemes have been under-taken and that this is an ordinary Budget. The hon. Members are well aware of the fact that the financial position of our State is very weak, our resources are limited and who-so-ever may be the Chief Minister and whatever party may be in power we will have to look up to the Centre for financial help, otherwise it would become very difficult for us to make our both ends meet. In the present state of affairs, I find some hon. Members putting forth demands that the Government should construct roads in such and such districts and that hospitals, schools and so many other things should be opened here and there and that consolidation of holdings should be carried out immediately. All these things are desirable but when the question of raising money for them by means of taxes comes up for consideration it meets with a vehement opposition. I cannot understand why this habit of criticising without any purpose which we have got as a legacy from the Unionist Government still persists? Even after the achievement of independence we have not been able to leave this habit. We cannot do anything positive. When we go outside we do not try to console the unfortunate refugees who come to us for help. We don't try to lessen their miseries; we do not face them and tell them that the hands of the Government are full. We don't try to place the difficulties of our Government before the public. Instead of contributing our bit for solving the problems that face us we go on criticizing the Government. To such critics my advice is that they should only wait and see for two years during which period the Government hopes to solve many of the difficulties of the displaced persons

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : But people will die during this period.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Neither you nor I have done anything to save them. Whatever has been done for them was done by the Punjab Government. We only talk and criticize. We go and sit at Delhi and Ambala. But it is Government only which remained here and fought against odds. We might have made recommendations here and there but nothing solid has been done by us. It was the Government which came to the rescue of millions of displaced persons, while we only indulged in useless criticism. In this respect I am glad that to-day the ex-Premier made a speech which was full of

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constructive suggestions. He has suggested that the need of the hour is to impart military training to the people near the border and to distribute arms in the border districts. I strongly support his suggestions and appeal to the Chief Minister that the present system of issuing licenses should be dispensed with so far as the border areas are concerned and 303 rifles should be supplied to all the persons near the border at cheap rates between hundred and two hundred rupees. The order, which the ex-Premier issued in his time that the people cannot be given arms as against the regular police force was, in my opinion, inexpedient. It should not have been issued and now I think it should be withdrawn forthwith. It is strange that the people near the border can purchase arms from the Pakistan side of the border but our Government does not make arrangements to see that our people are armed against any danger that may arise any time. The farmers near the border are always exposed to risk. Their wives and daughters run the risk when they carry meals to the fields. In order to provide them with weapons to defend their lives and honour we should take steps to see that action in this matter is taken as soon as possible. At present we find that poor persons are unable to buy rifles. It is my humble suggestion that rifles at prices ranging between one hundred and two hundred should be made available to them. I hope our Chief Minister will be good enough to issue necessary orders in respect of rural population of the border districts.

Then, it has been stated that Government work has been suffering for want of able men. I do not see eye to eye with this observation. I am of the opinion that the work of the Government will be carried on irrespective of who holds the portfolio of Finance. I feel the real criterion of the strength of the Government is that it has the fullest support of the people. I think if my hon. Friends abandon the practice of running to Delhi and making complaints to the High Command, only then public support can be.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave aside Delhi and avoid making any reflections.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Well, Sir, my submission is that if running to Delhi is abandoned, the State of Punjab can again flourish and thrive as it used to be. It is my fervent desire that Punjab should be for the Punjabis. (*Hear, hear*). The question of Agriculturists and Non-agriculturists should not agitate the mind of the public. There should be complete unity among our ranks, and the province should be made as strong as a rock. (*Hear hear*). I am of the view that if we close our ranks and be united like one man then even the Central Government cannot resist our reasonable demands for financial help. (*Hear, hear*.) Ours is a border province and, therefore, no

pains should be spared to make it strong and the proverbial sword arm of India.

Then, Sir, it has been suggested that a commission should be set up to go into the question of effecting improvement in the services. I wholeheartedly support this suggestion. I feel that there are certain defects in the services, which demand a radical change at an early date. I have submitted to the hon. Chief Minister many a time that the present red-tapism in the offices, which is a legacy of the British regime, should be done away with and some improvements should be brought about in the services with a view to keep them abreast of the modern times. It goes without saying that we are passing through a transitional period after the attainment of freedom. Now what is the state of affairs obtaining in the offices? We find that it takes very long, sometimes months, for the orders of the hon. Ministers to reach the subordinate offices. It is all due to lack of co-ordination on the part of the Heads of the Departments. I can quote instances in support of my assertion. Sometime back a number of parts of a capital machinery working at the Bhakra Dam site, went out of order and required replacement. Since they were not available in India, they were to be imported from abroad. But for eight months dollars sufficient to cover the price could not be released and I wonder if those accessories have been received even by now. This delay is not natural. It is due to something lacking in the coordination of work. The matter does not stop here. So far as the execution of Bhakra Dam and Nangal projects are concerned, two high officers are controlling it. One is in charge of the construction work and the other controls the entire establishment employed for the purpose. Now this dual control does not contribute a whit to the efficiency of the work. The employees under the Construction Chief Engineer think that the power for promotion or transfer or penalty for bad work vests in the other Head, so they can easily evade hard work. It is common knowledge that a subordinate will work hard and efficiently only when he knows that his work will be appreciated by the Head of Department, who will reward him with promotion. But if he knows that the man under whom he is working, cannot help him in any way in the matter of promotion, he will certainly not put in the same amount of work which he would have done in the former case. So I am of the opinion that both these Chief Engineers should have equal powers of administration so that the work may be coordinated in a better way. I would ask the hon. Chief Minister to be aware of the conspiracy of the Secretariat which stands in his way for bringing about coordination of work. He should adopt means to raise them up.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The word 'conspiracy' is a strong word.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : My submission is that the Heads of the Departments are very shrewd people. It should be brought home to them by

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the hon. Chief Minister that coordination of the work is extremely necessary for a good administration. In this connection, I am reminded of a railway bridge which was to be constructed by the railway authorities on Sarsa Nadi. Our P. W. D., too, had to build a road bridge on that river along side the railway bridge. If our departmental Head had any sense of coordination of work, he could have started the construction of that bridge in conjunction with the railway authorities. But this would not suggest itself to him and the construction of that road bridge has been now started. Well, Sir, what I want to drive at is that we are passing through such times under which it is not possible for one man to accomplish everything single-handed. Similarly a Chief Minister, whosoever he may be, cannot succeed in shouldering the onerous responsibility of running the administration of the province single handed unless he has the fullest support of all sections of the House. Then, Sir, I would like to bring a few important matters to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should remember that his time is almost up.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I shall be very brief, Sir. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to kindly see that arrangements are made for the distribution of all the controlled commodities in the rural areas through cooperative societies. I am sure so long as this is not done, complaints from the rural people regarding maldistribution of controlled commodities are bound to come. I think that they would be better served under the cooperative societies than under the existing arrangements. Then I would suggest to him that Agricultural Banks be opened which should advance money to the Zamindars for the improvement of Agriculture. I am of the opinion that so long as our Agricultural industry is not brought in line with other advanced countries, our province will not make any substantial progress. I feel that the establishment of an Agricultural Bank will go a long way in providing the Zamindars with loans for purchasing and utilising the modern agricultural implements the use of which will result in increased production. Besides this, there is yet another important matter and it is this. You are perhaps aware, Sir, that under the British regime, the Delhi administration was linked with the Punjab in certain matters and the Punjabis used to have 75 percent share in that administration. Now that share has considerably gone down and we find that the Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi do not belong to Punjab. That is why the Punjabis are not receiving fair treatment at the hands of these officers. There is no Punjabi high officer who should safeguard the interests of the Punjabi refugees there. I would ask the House to request the hon. Chief Minister to press for the share of the Punjabis in the administration of Delhi, otherwise even the present share, whatever it is, will dwindle down and the

result will be that the Punjabi refugees will have nobody to look after their interests.

In the end, I would submit that if the Government desire that the hon. Ministers should not be made a target of severe criticism, then I would make a specific suggestion. I suggest that advisory boards should be set up and attached to every hon. Minister. All those hon. Members who have thorough knowledge of certain departments should be asked to serve on the respective advisory boards with a view to advising the hon. Minister for the improvement of administration. The result will be that on the one hand the administration will be improved and on the other those Members will not criticise the hon. Ministers in the following sessions of the Assembly. Thus the burden of the hon. Ministers would be lightened to a considerable extent and they would be saved of diatribes from the hon. Members. I am sure, if the hon. Chief Minister would accept my suggestions, there will be an all-round progress in the State of Punjab. One thing more and I have finished. I want to impress upon the Government with all the emphasis at my command and on behalf of the House that they should not spare any pains to mobilise all means for the construction of the Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects. They should tap all sources to find out money and even obtain loans from the Central Government to the maximum extent with a view to completing these projects within five years so that the Punjab may stand on its own legs. (*Cheers*).

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing South—West Punjab Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, our Government have been giving top priority to the rehabilitation problem during the last two and a half years and they have made every endeavour to solve it even with the help of the Central Government. But despite these efforts this problem has not been fully solved. I am of the opinion that unless all the refugees from the West Punjab are satisfactorily rehabilitated, they cannot lead a contented life. Then there is an other kindred matter of equally vital importance and it is the question of consolidation of holdings of land. Last year a measure to this effect was enacted but could not be enforced due to certain defects in it. Besides, we have been told by the Government that consolidation work will be taken in hand after the completion of the allotment of lands to the refugees. Till then it would not be possible to act upon this measure. But I feel that since the allotment work has been accomplished to a considerable extent, the work of consolidation of lands should be undertaken vigorously. As a matter of fact we have been greatly disappointed at the meagre amount of 14 lakhs of rupees earmarked for this purpose. I may tell the Government that any delay in accomplishing the task of consolidation of holdings would adversely affect the Grow More Food Schemes, which will not prove a success unless consolidation work is taken in hand immediately. In this connection

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it has been stated by the Government that they would complete the consolidation of holdings within five years. This is a long period. I would make suggestions to the Government by which it would be easily possible for them to finish this work within two years. The first thing that I would like to suggest is that the survey of the land in connection with the consolidation of land holdings should be conducted as early as possible through the Survey Department of the Government of India. If this work is entrusted to them I am sure, this work which would ordinarily take our Government two to three years in surveying the lands of one district would be completed by them within three or four months. If Government of India is approached to lend the services of the Survey Department, then I am sure the whole of the survey work in connection with the consolidation of land holdings would be completed within one year. It will not be out of place to mention here that survey of the land conducted by the Survey Department of the Central Government would be quite accurate and scientific. The survey work thus conducted would also go a long way in linking villages by wide, straight and good roads. If his survey work is conducted through the Survey Department of India, I am sure this will give entire satisfaction to the zamindars. It goes without saying that this work if conducted properly would also go a long way in facilitating the work in connection with the consolidation of land holdings. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge to approach the Central Government to lend the services of the Central Survey Department to conduct this work.

I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister that so far as the work in connection with the consolidation of land holdings is concerned, if our Government is not in a position to spare any money for it zamindars would be prepared to stand all the expenses incurred in this connection. As a matter of fact they are willing to pay any cess, except of course, the abiana which they are not willing to pay at any cost, which may be levied by the Government to accomplish this work. This is not all. If the Government wants to realize this cess today, they would be prepared to make this payment as it is in their own interests to do so. It will not be out of place to mention here that our Government would be obliging the zamindars if this amount is realized from them on instalment basis so that they may be able to make their payments within a year or so. I take this opportunity of making an earnest appeal to the hon. Chief Minister to take this work in connection with the consolidation of land holdings in hand and give top priority to it in the furtherance of the Grow More Food Schemes.

(The Chief Minister was called to speak).

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, this motion that is now before the House has been moved by the Leader of the House and as such he can have a right of reply only. He can rise up to give his reply when all the hon. Members who want to speak have had their say. As you have

noticed Sir, there are more than half a dozen Members who still want to speak. I would submit that the Chief Minister should not be allowed to speak at this stage. Moreover, he can only speak after the closure motion has been moved and carried but so far no closure motion has been moved.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Had the hon. Members expressed their wish, I would have shortened the time limit in the beginning when I fixed 20 minutes for the person initiating the debate and 15 minutes for others. From the number of hon. Members who rose to speak, I got an impression that the number of such hon. Members was not very large and that was why I fixed that time-limit. Now it is 5.30 and at 6, I have to apply guillotine and there are only 30 minutes left for the Chief Minister who has to reply to the criticism of all the hon. Members who have so far taken part in the debate.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : It is a very important matter and more time should have been given.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That was the reason why I myself changed the rule and instead of applying the guillotine at 5, I have extended the time by one hour. Moreover, the hon. Member knows it perfectly well that all these matters were discussed during the debate on the Governor's address, on the general discussion of the Budget and today. For all these reasons I think it is fair that the Chief Minister should be allowed to speak at this stage.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, since the guillotine is to be applied at 6 p.m. and all the objections raised by my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches with regard to the Bill now before the House, have to be replied, sufficient time is, therefore, needed for this purpose. I had already requested you for more time and you have now been pleased to give me half an hour. However, I shall try my best to reply to the objections raised by my hon. Friends in such a short time. I am really thankful to my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar for giving very valuable and constructive suggestions which he was pleased to make in the course of his speech. As a matter of fact one is apt to expect valuable and constructive suggestions from my hon. Friend who had managed the Finance Department and had also been the Premier of this State. I take this opportunity of thanking him once again for his valuable suggestions.

One charge has been levied against us and that is that excepting the Chief Minister, all other Ministers are not equal to the task. Here I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends in general and my hon. Friend who has made this allegation in particular that under the

[Chief Minister]

Constitution, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister and according to parliamentary practice it is the Chief Minister who selects the members of his Cabinet and after making this selection, whatever work is done, it is done with joint responsibility. If any work is done by a Minister it is said to be done on behalf of the Cabinet or in other words on behalf of the Government. If I say or do anything in the capacity of the Chief Minister, the responsibility for this does not fall on me alone, but on all my colleagues as well. Whatever I say, I say that on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues and we are all jointly responsible for that. My hon. Friend who has raised this objection and who has already worked as the Finance Minister of our State, knows it full well as to how a budget is prepared and how it has to pass through various stages. It will not be out of place to mention here that when my hon. Friend was working as the Finance Minister, at that time being the Premier, I had also taken a sufficient part in the preparation of the Budget. He also knows that the Budget has to be placed before the Cabinet. He must have known that at that time it was a matter of joint responsibility. By saying this that the Ministry is not equal to the task and that it is incapable of doing any thing and that the Chief Minister does the whole work, attempts are being made to drive the thin end of the wedge between me and my colleagues or give me a bad name and thus discredit my colleagues.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : The Ministry has already earned a bad name what else does the hon. Chief Minister want now?

Chief Minister : It has been said by my hon. Friend that since he happened to be the Member of the same party, he had no other alternative but to support the Budget, otherwise he was not prepared to support it. I would like to make this point clear that it is really a matter of gratification to note that in spite of such speeches on the floor of the House, our Party of which my hon. Friend claims to be a Member, is as strong and firm as a rock and I feel proud of it. It is also a matter of great pride that the party whip is being strictly obeyed and that the party is as strong as anything. However, I have no hesitation in making this point clear that if the hon. Member has any objection and does not want to obey the party whip then he may choose to leave the party. (*Noise and interruption.*)

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the Chief Minister not to refer to these remarks. It would be better if he avoids going into that.

Chief Minister : Sir, it has been said that setting up of Planning Commission is the pressing need of the hour. It has also been said that in the absence of any Planning Commission about which no reference whatsoever has been made by the Government in the Budget, it is not

possible for us to make any progress in any direction. It has also been said that no short or long term planning in connection with rehabilitation has been devised by the Government. Here I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friend that Government of India have already set up a Planning Committee and we are already represented there.

It has also been said that a committee of officials should be set up and that this committee should be entrusted with the task of industrial planning and economic development of the State. My view is that a Planning Committee can work on an all-India basis and not on a provincial basis. So far as Industrial Planning is concerned, we have already an Industrial Planning Committee on an All-India basis. The Chief Minister and the Ministers for Industries of all the States are invited to this Committee where they sit together and devise various plans.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : Does this Committee consist of officials only ?

Chief Minister : Yes, Sir, we had set up an Industries Committee in the year 1946 and its report is with us and the other report of two committees which were subsequently constituted is yet in the press. When it comes before the Government, it will take its decision as to how industry can be developed in villages according to their report. The reports of the committees of industrialists have been examined by the Government from time to time and their recommendations which were considered necessary have been implemented. The Planning Committee could work on an all-India basis and not on a provincial basis. The recommendations of the National Planning Commission that has been set up by the Government of India will be implemented by all the States. We have also set up Rural Development Boards according to the recommendations of the Economic Programme Committees constituted by the All India Congress Committee. Such development boards have done appreciable work for the welfare of the rural class of people. If my hon. Friends had closely studied the Budget they would not have said that there are no plans for economic development of our State. We have our own planning according to which we have been carrying out our objectives. Some of my hon. Friends have remarked that there should be agricultural planning in the State and that the system of crop insurance should be introduced in consonance with the needs of agriculture. Some have made suggestions for the opening of agricultural banks which should advance loans to agriculturists. I may inform the House that our Government had suggested to the Government of India for the establishment of an Agricultural Finance Corporation on the model of Industrial Finance Corporation. This required a finance of 5 crores of rupees. A scheme was worked out according to which one crore of rupees were to be contributed by our Government and one crore of rupees by the Central Government

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and a sum of rupees 3 crores was to be taken as loan from the Reserve Bank of India. The Government of India was approached but it did not accept this proposal on the ground that the Government would not favour the idea of increasing inflation in the country. Sir, an objection has been raised that the Ministers are not equal to the task but I would not like to answer this criticism in the same strain. I would only say that such a criticism is only ungracious. I have made an enquiry and find that the charges that are levelled against them are absolutely wrong and baseless and are only made on the basis of party politics. I would not like to stretch the point further but only say that those who make allegations against the Ministers should first do self-introspection. It was also said that services are corrupt and some of the hon. Members had made certain allegations against some officers at the time of general discussion of the Budget. I would say that it is an unhealthy practice to make allegations against any officer who cannot defend himself on the floor of the House. Such a criticism only impairs the prestige of the administration. I may also say that the objections raised in connection with the inquiries against the I C S. officers have no force as there has been no delay in the conduct of inquiry. The enquiry against these officers started in the month of June and its report was submitted in August. After completing that enquiry, enquiry was started against three more officers. All the officers who held these inquiries are men of long executive and judicial experience. One of them is a Sessions Judge and the other is a Legal Remembrancer and it will be showing great injustice to them if any impression is gathered that they would show favour and acquit any person. In fact, Government and the State are proud of such officers who perform their duties honestly and diligently and carry out the responsibility of their office without any fear or favour. It is nothing but an attempt to unnecessarily defame them. Another charge that has been levelled against the Government is that no action has been taken by the Government against the highly placed officers in connection with the Government's drive against corruption and only smaller fry had been made the victims. I fail to follow the logic of my hon. Friend. Does he mean to say that big people should invariably be put to gallows even if they have not committed any offence and the dishonest and unscrupulous persons from the lower rank should go scot free? Law is no respecter of persons and an enquiry has been made against the officials against whom allegations of corruption were made. My hon. Friend has remarked that out of the four P. C. S. officers who were accused of serious misdemeanour, one officer was promoted to I. A. S. by the active support of one of the I. A. S. officers who held that enquiry. I may inform him that the statement of the hon. Member is based on wrong report. Such an objection should not have been raised by the hon. Member unless he was sure that such a thing had actually happened. The I. A. S. officers who held these enquiries were appointed

by the Union Public Service Commission and not by this Government. It is absolutely wrong to say that our Government had anything to do in the matter. Besides this, when the demand for grant for the Irrigation Department was discussed in the House it was said that the Chief Engineer has been giving contracts to his own relatives. It is easy to make a criticism of this kind but difficult to work in such a position. They perhaps do not form an accurate idea of the valuable work the Chief Engineer has to perform and it is all due to his efforts that Bhakra Dam Project has reached such an advanced stage of construction. Sometime back a complaint was made to the effect that the Engineers were selling cement and petrol used in connection with the construction of the project but there was absolutely no truth in such allegations. It, therefore, does not behove the hon. Members to make false charges against the officers of the administration. We are, as a matter of fact, proud of having such fine engineers in our State who have been able to handle the complicated works of Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects with great measure of success. An hon. Member had also remarked that the Government of India had refused to render any financial assistance for the completion of Bhakra Dam Project on account of financial stringency. But I would like to inform the House that from the recent letter of the Prime Minister of the Central Government, it is clear that the Central Government is prepared to place large funds at the disposal of this Government for the early completion of this Bhakra Dam cum Nangal Project. Government of India is anxious for the early completion of these projects because its urgency and importance are realised for agricultural and industrial development of the State.

Besides this, argument has been advanced that the Government should not open any college at a place where there are already private colleges functioning to cater for the needs of the student community. Such colleges are only opened to meet the increased needs of the students and to avoid overcrowding in other colleges. I do not welcome such a criticism as the Education Department has opened colleges only to provide educational facilities to meet the demand of large number of displaced students in the State. Sir, there was a demand in the past in many quarters that the Government should assume the whole responsibility for higher education and that sectional and denominational institutions should not be allowed to function as they fostered communalism. Now that we have decided to open more Government Colleges, it is demanded that this should not be done and that the growth of private institutions be encouraged by giving them grants. It is now averred that since private colleges are being started, there is no need to open Government Colleges. This is strange logic. The proposal to open a college at Hissar is not a new one and even if a private college is going to be opened, there is no reason why the Government should give up the idea of opening a Government College, as there will be enough students for both the colleges.

[Chief Minister.]

In doing so, we are meeting a long-standing demand of the people of that district.

Sir, objection was also raised against the trading activities of the Government. It was alleged that the Government purchases commodities at lower prices and by selling them at higher rates indulges in black-marketing. It is a pity, Sir, that this criticism should have been levelled against the Government by those who so vehemently advocate wholesale nationalization. I really fail to understand the definition that they give to the term 'black-marketing'. If the Government supplies to the people 'controlled articles' at controlled prices, how can it be called 'black-marketing'. This passes my comprehension at least. And then if you look askance at the Government even in such small matters, why talk of nationalization of all services and industries? I am afraid if this is regarded as 'black-marketing', my Friends will have to take the trouble of coining some other term for real 'black-market'.

I have already referred briefly to some of the proposals made by my able Friend, Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. Now, a few words about military training. At the moment, I can only say that this was started long ago. We are imparting mass training in the form of training to the Provincial Volunteer Corps. I cannot, however, disclose the arrangements that have been made at the border for defence. I have no hesitation in saying that we do not want war even if the decision were to rest with us. The Government of India, too does not want war-but if in spite of this war is forced upon us, I can assure this hon. House, that we are fully prepared to meet every eventuality. (Cheers). We will fight to defend our country to the last man and to the last ounce of energy left in any of us (Cheers). We will not let any of our resources remain untapped in order to save our freedom. (Cheer).

It is not right to think that we are oblivious of the need of taking adequate steps for the defence of our motherland, though I don't want to disclose military secrets nor do I think any sensible man would do it. I may also inform the House that our youngmen who are studying in Colleges are also receiving Military training. The total number of students in the senior and Junior section of the National Cadet Corps is at present about 4,500. Some other Corps such as Artillery Corps, Medical Corps, and Air Force Corps are also going to be started shortly, with a view to importing military training to ninety youngmen. Nor are we unmindful of the fact that military training should be given to the general public of the Province. May I, Sir, here relate an experience, which is of a revealing nature, so far as the attitude of the people is concerned. When the Government of India was about launch

police action against Hyderabad, there was a good deal of panic among the people of Delhi. On coming to Ambala, we found that people were not so panicky as at Delhi and at Ludhiana and Jullundur, the panic was still less. On coming to the Amritsar district, we found people living in villages near the border quietly and calmly doing their work without the least exhibition of panic. On the other hand, as one went further and further east, one found more panic than in the Punjab. In U. P. most of the people seemed to be under the impression that all the Punjabis had probably left their homes and hearths and the Punjab had become empty ! (*Laughter.*)

Now, Sir, I would briefly dwell upon an observation made by Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. He has expressed himself against any cut in the salaries of Ministers, because according to him under the present modes and standards of life, no Minister can pull on without spending from his own pocket. Though he didn't say this thing, some friends might suggest that if their salaries are not adequate, the Ministers should resort to borrowing. But I ask who will give them money on loan when they own no property and have no credit ? Then, should they take to 'stealing'—the third alternative of beg borrow or steal ? (*Voices No, no.*)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, may I with your permission interrupt my hon. Friend. If the Ministers are already under debt, which they cannot.....

Chief Minister : I have admitted that he has not said this. I say, it is possible some one may suggest it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Let us take a charitable view.

Chief Minister : Sir, I was just going to explain why this cut was introduced. This practice of voluntary cuts was first started by the Governor-General and the Ministers of the Government of India in pursuance of their drive against inflation. One of the measures taken to fight inflation was the scheme of 'compulsory savings' but as it applied only to officers of permanent services drawing a salary of more than Rs. 3,000, the Ministers of the Government of India decided to impose voluntary cuts, in order to contribute their mite in the fight against inflation. So we too decided to make a little sacrifice in this direction. At first, a cut of Rs. 100 was decided upon but later on everyone agreed to a cut equivalent to 10 per cent. i.e. Rs. 150.

So far as the re-organization of offices and official procedure is concerned, I may inform my friends that the work is being carried on by the Re-organization Committee. So far, it has tried to examine the question of quick and early disposal of cases and to find out ways and means of eliminating delays. The Government desires that every Department should be examined and re-organized so as to conform to the ideal of 'maximum efficiency with mini-

[Chief Minister]

mun staff'. The Government has this very aim in view but it does not favour any retrenchment at the expense of and by sacrificing efficiency. We wanted this re-organization soon after the partition, as my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh knows it well, but owing to urgent pre-occupations we could not give attention to this matter. Now we propose to take up this work in all earnestness. A few days back, we have reduced two posts of Superintending Engineers in the Irrigation Department. We have also proposals to effect reduction in the higher staff in the Buildings and Roads Department. (*Cheers*) But all this will be done keeping the efficiency in view and not by sacrificing it.

Then there are the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and the Committee of Estimates. They can suggest how we can curtail our expenditure. Every Department will come for review and scrutiny before them. They can go through every scheme of the Government and make suggestion as to how it can be executed with the minimum possible expenditure. We have hopes that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee will at the same time suggest to us ways and means of increasing the revenues of the State. We eagerly await its proposals.

Sir, we are passing through critical times, economically, as well as politically. So far as our economic condition is concerned we have constantly to fight inflation and owing to difficulties of foreign exchange we are not in a position to get our requirements from the hard currency areas. Perhaps export could have helped us in this direction but unluckily we have not much to export. The second thing is the political atmosphere around us. Our's is a new-born State and we have to work hard to develop it and maintain its independence. Our internal problems apart, we cannot shut our eyes to what is happening in Kashmir and the East Bengal and there is no knowing what is going to happen to us in the very near future.

Sir, in connection with our economic condition, I am to say that the House should very kindly lend me a helping hand. My brethren who owned land in the West Punjab could not be given as much as they had in the West Punjab as the land left by the Muslims was not sufficient to cover their claims in this State. Their claims were subjected to a certain cut. This principle of cut was applied in cases where a person owned even one acre or less of land with the result that the land now at the disposal of many of our displaced people is not sufficient to maintain them. This is the condition of those who were owners. As for the displaced tenants or for that matter even many of the local tenants, they have nothing to do. This is a very disquieting situation and we must do something to help the small zamindars and the tenants. In these circumstances, I suggest that we should approach the Government of India with the request that so much of land which is lying uncultivated in other states should be given to the Punjabis. The Government of India

does not appear to be inclined to favour the Punjabis. It desires that these people should confine themselves to the Punjab even if they starve. It is an act of injustice to us on the part of that Government as the Punjabi Harijans, other backward classes and the Rai Sikhs who have been protecting our Ferozepur border have got to be provided. We cannot tolerate that they should starve. We must pass a strongly worded resolution and forward it to the Central Government. Along with this we should ask for an early settlement of the evacuee property problem. There is no reason why top priority should not be given to this matter in the Inter dominion Conferences. We have already suffered enormously for having been kept on tenter hooks and I believe that we cannot embark on our schemes of development unless this question is satisfactorily solved.

Sardar Swaran Singh. What should the House do to strengthen the hands of the hon. Chief Minister?

Chief Minister : In addition to passing a resolution I think the House should set up a committee to negotiate with the Central Government on these matters. As the Committee will be representative of the whole House it will be able to exert much greater pressure than I can or any other individual can.

Sir, here I feel like making an earnest request to hon. Members and it is this that they should discard the bad habit of washing dirty linen in public. We are all representatives of a party and this Government is a Government of that party. It is a party Government that has been established in the State and it does not matter as to who form its Ministry. It is the duty of every one of us to make this Government as strong as is possible. This, however, does not mean that we should not discuss our various problems. We should discuss them by all means but of course not here in the House. These things should be done in our party meetings.

There is another request which I address not only to the hon. Members of this House but also to the general public through them. We have already suffered untold miseries because of an evil and still it is being fostered in some quarters. I find that distinction is being unnecessarily created between the ruralites and the urbanites. It is awfully bad. The classification as urbanites and ruralites or as Hindus and Sikhs will surely not stand us in any good stead. We should keep clear of these controversies and consider ourselves as Punjabis if we have the interests of our State at heart. All of us ruralites, urbanites, Hindus and Sikhs should work together to bring a name to our State. And if we don't do this I have fears that we may not prove equal to the disruptive forces which are gaining ground in the State every day.

Sir, a good deal has been said about law and order. As a matter of fact I would be very glad if an independent tribunal is appointed

[Chief Minister]

to enquire as to what we have done in this direction. I am proud to say that we were able to maintain law and order and perform the most important task of rehabilitation even under the most difficult and trying circumstances in which we found ourselves immediately after partition. I have no doubt that in case an inquiry is held our State may be found to be superior and not inferior to any State of the Indian Union in the matter of maintaining law and order. At any rate, there is every hope that if we continue to work with the steadfastness on our part our State will not only be able to stand on its own feet but will become a leading State of the country.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 and 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 49, Noes 4.

Ayes

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Amar Nath Shri, Vidyalankar.
Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Buja Ram, Bhagat.
Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
Dalip Singh, Thakur.
Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, The hon. Dr.
Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The hon. Sardar.
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar.
Gurbanta Singh, Master.
Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.
Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
Jaswant Singh Duggal, Sardar.
Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
Kabul Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kehr Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.

Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
Lehna Singh Sethi, The hon. Dr.
Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
Mehr Chand, Chaudhri.
Narinder Singh, Sant.
Narotam Singh. The hon. Sardar.
Pancham Chand Thakur.
Partap Singh, Sardar.
Piara Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Prithvi Singh, Azad, The hon. Shri.
Ranjit Singh, Captain.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
Sant Ram Sethi, Dr.
Shanno Dev Saigal, Shrimati.
Sher Singh, Chaudhri.
Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sita Devi, Shrimati.
Swaran Singh, Sardar.
Tara Singh, Sardar.
Udham Singh, Sardar.
Virendra, Shri.

Noes

Bachan Singh Sardar.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

The motion was carried.

SCHEDULE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause. 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister : I move—

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Wednesday, March 29, 1950.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

29th March 1950

Vol. I—No. 17

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 29th March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2. p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUGAR RATION DEPOTS.

***1754. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the villagers in the Karnal district are feeling a great difficulty in getting their sugar rations from the depots due to (i) the depot-holders being generally absent and (ii) sugar being out of stock when the villagers go to the depots ;
- (b) the number of villages which one sugar depot serves ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that non-official members of the Civil Supply Committee, Karnal, have protested against the reduction in the number of depots by half and have recommended for an increase in their number ;
- (d) whether the Civil Supply Committee, Karnal also recommended that sugar depot-holders should distribute sugar by going round to the villages as has been done in the case of supply of kerosene oil ;
- (e) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) No.

(b) Ten.

(c) Yes. The original number of depots has been restored.

(d) Yes.

(e) The recommendations of the Civil Supplies Committee are being given effect to.

QUASI-PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF VILLAGE DAUDPURA.

***1529. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the quasi-permanent allotment of lands of village Daudpura, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, has been completed;
- (b) the names of the allottees who were allotted lands temporarily in this village during the year 1947-48 ;
- (c) the number of the allottees referred to in part (b) above who were entitled to get land under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme in this village ;
- (d) the number of the allottees referred to above in part (b) above who were allotted land in this village under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme ;
- (e) whether any persons who were neither the local colonists nor the temporary allottees of this village were allotted lands in this village under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme ; if so, the names of such allottees together with the villages to which they belonged in Pakistan ;
- (f) the names of those persons who were allotted lands in this village under the quasi-permanent scheme and the area allotted to each one of them ;
- (g) whether any of the allottees referred to in part (b) above who were entitled to less area of land than those referred to in part (f) above have been refused allotment ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No.

- (b) Information is contained in List 'A' placed on the table.
- (c) 21.
- (d) Does not arise,
- (e) —do—
- (f) —do—
- (g) —do—

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED MUSLIMS OF PUNJAB (INDIA).

***1711. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the decision at the meeting of the Rehabilitation Council on the 20th March, 1949, at New Delhi regarding the rehabilitation of displaced Muslims of Punjab (India) ;

- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Punjab Government to implement those decisions ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) It was decided that the land of Muslim citizens of India displaced from their homes during 1947 disturbances, who did not go to Pakistan, would be restored to them.

- (b) Orders have been issued for restoration of land to Muslims of Gurgaon and Ambala districts who were enumerated in the census of 1948. In regard to others, action is being taken in terms of Section 16 of the Administration of Evacuee Property Ordinance XXVII of 1949, promulgated by the Government of India.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Was it decided that land should be restored to those displaced Muslims who did not go to Pakistan and who are at present living in some parts of Punjab and also in some other parts of India ?

Minister : It was decided that land should be restored to those displaced Muslims who did not go to Pakistan. Land has already been restored to some of those displaced Muslims who were enumerated in the census of 1948 and the rest of them would be given the possession of their lands at the time of quasi-permanent allotment.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How and when was the census taken ?

Minister : The displaced Muslims were enumerated in the census of 1948. I do not remember the exact date.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In view of the fact that the enumerations of the displaced Muslims was made in the census of 1948 and the decision regarding their rehabilitation was arrived at on 20th March, 1949, may I know if it is the intention of the Government to take any steps for the restoration of land to those displaced Muslims who have not been enumerated in the census of 1948 ?

Minister : If those displaced Muslims, whose names are not included in the census list of 1948 prove that they did not go to Pakistan, land would surely be provided to them. We have already reserved some land for this purpose and this land is not being allotted to the refugees.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Have any orders been issued by the Government to this effect ? Has the Government issued any orders for the preparation of the lists of such displaced Muslims who were not enumerated in the census of 1948 ? Is it the intention of the Government to give any compensation to those displaced Muslims who will prove that they had not gone to Pakistan ?

Minister : The Deputy Commissioners have been informed that land would be restored to those displaced Muslims who will prove that they had not

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

gone to Pakistan. Instructions have been issued to them to invite applications from such displaced Muslims.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of such applications received by the Government so far ?

Minister : I require notice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is this matter under the consideration of the Government that those displaced Muslims who would be given land would not create any obstacles in the way of the Government ?

Minister : I have already stated that those who have not gone to Pakistan will surely be given land.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In view of the fact that it was decided to give possession of land to them before Rabi 1949, may I know the reason why no such steps were taken by the Government ?

Minister : Some of them have already been given possession while those who have not given any proof to the effect that they did not go to Pakistan, would be given possession as soon as they furnish the required proof. Some of the lands which had fallen vacant were given to them. The rest of them would be given lands when possession would be taken from the present allottees at present settled on their lands. Possession would be given to them in the same way as would be given to Hindu and Sikh refugees.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In view of the fact that they have not been given the possession, may I know if they would be exempted from the payment of land revenue with a view to compensating them ?

Minister : Possession would be given to them in the same way as would be given to other communities. The question of any compensation does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that there is a vast difference between the refugees and the displaced Muslims of India ? Is it also a fact that the displaced Muslims cannot be treated as refugees ? Is it the intention of the Government to treat the displaced Muslims as refugees ?

Minister : I can say this after going through the various rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of displaced Muslims referred to in part (b) above, who have been given possession of their land ?

Minister : I do not know the exact number. About 80% of them have been given land so far. Some of them have been given possession of their own land and the rest have been given land on lease.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of those displaced Muslims whose names have not been included in the census list of 1948 ? Is it a fact that none of them has been given any land so far ?

Minister : So far as their number is concerned, I require notice. Those of the displaced Muslims whose names have not been included in the census list of 1948 have not so far been allotted any land. Land would not be allotted to them so long as they do not furnish the required proof. As and when they do this, land would surely be allotted to them.

DISPLACED MUSLIMS OF KALSIA.

***1712. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of displaced Muslims of Kalsia have taken shelter in the relief camp at Buria ; if so, who is bearing the expenditure of the relief camp ;
- (b) whether the Government has made any representation to the Government of India or PEPSU Government to remove these Muslims from the relief camp ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) A relief camp for displaced Muslims of Jagadhri Tehsil was started at Buria in December, 1948. This camp was wound up in December, 1949. The maximum number of displaced Muslims who were in this camp at any time was 2073. The expenditure on this camp is to be reimbursed by the Government of India as in the case of other relief expenditure.

(b) No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know how much amount has been spent on the displaced Muslims who have taken shelter in the relief camp at Buria ?

Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In view of the fact that these displaced Muslims belong to Pepsu, may I know if our Government has made any demand on the Pepsu Government ?

Minister : It was not felt necessary to do so. The expenditure that is made in connection with the relief of the refugees or the displaced persons is reimbursed by the Government of India and not by the Pepsu or the Punjab Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the amount been spent by the Pepsu Government or the Punjab Government ?

Minister : The expenditure in connection with the relief measures is borne by the Government of India. As I have already stated the expenditure on this camp is to be reimbursed by the Government of India as in the case of other relief expenditure.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if it is a fact that more money is being spent on the displaced Muslims than on the Hindu and Sikh refugees ? Is it also a fact that the expenditure per head on the former is greater than on the latter ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member can himself calculate.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The total amount is not given.

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, the required information will be supplied.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the amount spent on the displaced Muslims was debited to the Suspense Account? Is this amount spent on them from the amount ear-marked for the Rehabilitation of Hindu and Sikh refugees?

Minister : The whole expenditure in connection with the refugees and displaced persons is incurred by the Central Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know to which account the amount spent on the displaced Muslims is being debited? Is it debited to the account of the refugees from Pakistan?

Minister : I cannot say that Punjab Government is not spending from any of its funds either on the displaced Muslims or the refugees from West Pakistan.

CASES OF EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY IN EAST AND WEST PUNJAB.

***1738. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of cases in which exchange of evacuee property between the East Punjab and the West Punjab has been registered so far in the Punjab (India) ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to allow exchange of property on individual basis ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member requires information about exchanges sanctioned by the Custodian after the Inter-Dominion Agreement concluded at Karachi in January, 1949. The number of exchanges so sanctioned is three involving property of the value of Rs. 2,51,500/-. The total number of exchanges sanctioned in all is 12, (involving property of the value of Rs. 3,07,616/-) the remaining nine cases being of exchanges arranged in 1947 or early in 1948.

- (b) The Custodian is entitled under the Evacuee Law as well as the Inter-Dominion Agreement to allow exchanges of property on individual basis. In view, however, of several breaches of the Inter Dominion Agreements by the Pakistan Government the whole subject is engaging the consideration of the Central Government.

EJECTMENT OF REFUGEE TENANTS

***1759. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the refugee tenants throughout the State are going to be ejected not only from lands allotted to them at the time of early allotment just after partition of the Punjab but they are also going to be dispossessed from the Kacha houses to give place to the new landlord allottees after the permanent allotment ;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the grave dissatisfaction amongst the refugee tenants on this account ;
- (c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, the steps Government intends to take to remove this dis-satisfaction of the landless refugee tenants ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, so far as land is concerned. In regard to houses, a large number may be accommodated when they are accepted as tenants by larger allottees.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is being carefully considered.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : When these tenants are evicted from their houses, will the Government make any arrangement for their settlement ?

Minister : They will be accommodated somehow or other at the place where land is allotted to them and if additional houses are considered necessary for them, Government will make the necessary arrangement.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of such refugee tenants throughout the State who were allotted land after the partition and are now going to be ejected from lands ?

Minister : I am sorry I cannot tell the exact figure off-hand.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government has made out any scheme to resettle them ?

Minister : I think these people will be automatically absorbed. The matter is under the consideration of Government to provide accommodation for these refugee tenants so that nobody should remain without a house.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It means that the Government will wait for sometime so that they may be themselves absorbed ; if not, will the Government be able to make the arrangement so soon ?

Minister : I am sure that a large number of them will be absorbed ; if not, the Government have sufficient means to absorb them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government will allot land to these refugee tenants in the same village where they would be allotted houses or at a long distance from that place ?

Minister : I cannot say definitely that they would be allotted land in the same village or at some distance but they will get it definitely.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any arrangement for their accommodation will be made by the Government at a place where lands are allotted to them ?

Minister : They will be provided with houses where land is allotted to them. You will see that nobody will be without roofed accommodation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when will it happen ?

Minister : No refugee tenant will remain without accommodation after six months.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What will happen if no arrangement is made within six months ?

Minister : The hon. Member should then blame me.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the assurance of the hon. Minister is based on certain facts and figures ?

Minister : Yes. I think there were about eighty thousand refugees in the camps out of whom 63,000 have been absorbed. The arrangement for remaining 14,000 refugees will be made within six months.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : May I know whether any arrangement will be made for the Harijan tenants who will be dispossessed of their houses ?

Minister : There should be no apprehensions in the minds of land-owners and tenants. Harijan tenants will be in small number and they will be easily absorbed. In case they are not absorbed, the Government have enough means to provide them with housing accommodation.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister has stated that the Government will provide housing accommodation to all refugee tenants, may I know whether Government has made any scheme ?

Minister : Yes. No refugee tenant will remain without a house.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether Government has taken decision about the resettlement of tenants or will it decide when the houses are ready ?

Minister : The matter has been thoroughly considered.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether this scheme is ready or is still in the brain of the hon. Minister ?

Minister : This scheme is ready and I may assure the hon. Lady Member that after a few months she will appreciate what has been done by the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government any data in its possession according to which it proposes to resettle the refugee tenants ?

Minister : Yes.

Master Gurbanta Singh : What arrangements does the Government propose to make with regard to those tenants who are being dispossessed of their houses these days ?

Minister : They are not refugees. The question relates to displaced persons. If the hon. Member brings to the notice of the Government any case of Harijan tenant, necessary arrangement will be made for him.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What action does the Government propose to take with regard to Harijan tenants ?

Minister : It is proposed not to disturb Harijan tenants as far as possible. Anyhow they will not in any case remain without land.

CULTIVABLE LAND LYING VACANT

***1760. Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area in acres of cultivable land lying uncultivated throughout the Punjab ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the tenants-at-will are not allowed by the allottee landlords of the land to cultivate these lands either on lease or on the batai system ;
- (c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government purpose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Statistics regarding total cultivable area lying uncultivated in Punjab (India) are not available with the Rehabilitation Department.

It is only when the land allottees get possession of their lands that we can say whether the tenants are allowed by the allottees to remain on their land. In a large number of cases, particularly where the allottees are non-cultivators, there is little doubt that they will allow the tenants to remain on their land.

- (c) Does not arise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the Government have issued instructions to 'Grow More Food' Committees that the land of absentee refugee landlords should not be cultivated ?

Minister : No such instructions have been issued.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has it not come to the notice of the Govern-

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma]

ment that now that the evacuee land has been allotted to the refugees, the old tenants are being ejected? What steps does the Government propose to take to avert this new problem that is being created?

Minister : The Government is not unmindful of this problem. At the same time it cannot ignore the question of giving possession to the refugee allottees. Keeping both the problems in view, I can assure the House that efforts will be made that the old tenants are allowed to continue, even when the possession is taken over by the refugee allottees.

But for the activities (*aisi waisi baten*) of some interested persons to create bad blood between the landlords and the tenants, I am sure this problem would not arise. We have tried to allot such of the evacuee land, where the old tenants were likely to be affected to big landlords who would not till it themselves, so that the former may not be displaced.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Minister quite sure that all such evacuee land which belonged to big Muslim landlords has been allotted to such refugee landlords who would not cultivate it themselves and would allow it to be cultivated by the old tenants?

Minister : The department has tried its best to do so. Any cases that are still with the department are being reviewed with this object in view and such evacuee land, where tenants are likely to be affected, is being allotted to big landlords.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does that mean that the Government is modifying the quasi-permanent allotment of land, that has already been completed?

Minister : Adjustments will continue to be made in cases which are referred to the department until the allotment work is completed. Afterwards, the Cabinet will decide what should be done in the matter.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the allotment work has been completed?

Minister : I have to admit that it is not yet complete. Even cases relating to the districts in which it has been completed are also being reviewed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not time that the Government took up the question of dealing with cases in which allotment orders have already been issued and where old tenants are likely to be ejected as a result of allotment of the land left by big Muslim landlords to small refugee cultivators, since after all among the remaining cases, only a few such cases will have been left?

Minister : In spite of the fact that allotment in respect of 95 per cent of the evacuee land is complete, such cases are being re-examined.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what the hon. Minister meant by 'aisi waisi baten' ?

Minister for Labour : The same as the 'Shikhandis' indulge in.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order Sir. Is the word 'Shikhandi' parliamentary ?

Mr. Speaker : What does it mean ?

Minister : It is applied to a person who sets people at loggerheads.

Mr. Speaker : You mean 'Naradmuni'.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister frankly say who was 'Shikhandi' in fact ?

Minister : Sir, I did not use the word in that sense. (*Laughter*)

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is the Government prepared to appoint a committee to go into the problem of landless tenants ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : Yes, there can be no objection to it.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Has the Government ever considered the question of allotting 'Kharaba' and 'banjar' land to these tenants ?

Minister : The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that while presiding at the meeting of the District 'Grow More Food' Committee of Ludhiana, Mr. P. K. Kaul, the Financial Commissioner had stated that such land would not be given to the landless tenants and would continue to remain as it was ?

Minister : I don't have any knowledge of it.

GOVERNMENT LAND FOR SIR CHHOTU RAM MEMORIAL SOCIETY AT ROHTAK.

***1643 Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the area of Government-owned land given by the Government for Sir Chhotu Ram Memorial Society at Rohtak town together with the date when it was given ;
- (b) the condition on which this land was given and the purpose thereof ;
- (c) whether Government is aware that Government gift is being used for the political purposes of a particular class ; if so, what action, if any, does Government propose to take to remedy this state of things ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) The area of the land is 2.65 acres. Orders for the grant of this land were issued on 30th September 1948.

(b) The transfer of land to the Society is subject to the conditions laid down in para 8 (a), (b), (c) of the Punjab Government consolidated circular No. 27 and the instrument of grant. This land has been transferred for the following purposes :—

- (i) Erecting a life statue of late Sir Ch. Chhotu Ram.
- (ii) Constructing a public library and a hall for religious meetings.
- (iii) Constructing a park for recreation.
- (c) Government has received no such complaints.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know who had applied for the land in question and in whose name has it been transferred ?

Minister : I have already referred to the Society to which it has been given.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister say what are the aims and objects of the Society and on what terms has the Government given this land and the exact purposes for which this land is to be utilized ?

Minister : The reply to all these questions has already been given in the reply to the original question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What I want to know is whether the Government had or had not full information about the members and office-bearers and the objects of this society before this well-situated land extending over a considerable area was given over to it ?

Minister : The object of the society is obvious viz, to erect a memorial in honour of the late Sir Chhotu Ram.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : As the hon. Minister does not appear to be in possession of adequate information, will the hon. Chief Minister let me know the name of the society to which land is given, its constitution and also the names of its office holders ?

Chief Minister : An application was made for grant of land by the representatives of Sir Chhotu Ram Memorial Committee and the Government feeling that establishing memorials for leaders who had served the country should not be dealt with in a party spirit gave land for this purpose.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I wish to know whether the society is a regularly registered society. And if it is one, what is its name and what are its aims and objects ?

Chief Minister : We had a thorough discussion with the representatives as to the aims and objects of the society and land was given after we were satisfied that the demand was genuine. As far the name and office holders of the society, I haven't got the necessary papers with me at present.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the conditions which were imposed on the society when land was given and also whether the President of the society is the Deputy Commissioner or a non-official ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to give information regarding the constitution of the society and the conditions imposed as the relevant papers are not with me at this time. But this information can be made available.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Why should in this case land be given for religious meetings as Sir Chhotu Ram was not a religious leader ?

Chief Minister : The grant was made simply for the reason that Sir Chhotu Ram was a well-known leader of the country.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir Chhotu Ram being a political leader, why should land be given on religious grounds and for religious purposes ?

Chief Minister : The land has been given for purposes of the memorial only.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But why should this place be allowed to become a religious centre ?

Chief Minister : Is it not going to be a religious centre.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that in the meeting held on the last birthday of Sir Chhotu Ram this Government and the Congress were severely criticised and condemned ?

Chief Minister : I shall try to ascertain the facts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then is it not a fact that the land granted by the Government is being used for political purposes ?

Chief Minister : I am not so far aware of it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government see that the Congress and the Government do not come in for any criticism at any meeting held over there ?

Chief Minister : As I have already said, I shall try to verify the actual facts.

Shri Kaidar Nath Sehgal : Are some astrologers also to be found on the Memorial Committee ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : When land worth lakhs of rupees is being given for memorials of men like Sir Chhotu Ram, will not the Government consider the advisability of granting land for memorials of martyrs like Sardar Bhagat Singh ?

Chief Minister : This matter is under the consideration of the Government.

PROBLEM OF TENANTS.

***1644. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the problem of tenants has engaged the attention of the Government; if so, the results thereof ;
- (b) the approximate area of land occupied by tenants and the number of families who enjoy occupancy rights in the Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes. The matter is under the sympathetic consideration of Government.

- (b) Information asked for can only be supplied after the field staff is relieved from Jullundur.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the occupancy tenants are virtual owners of land which has been in their possession for a very long time but they are not regarded as owners technically ?

Minister : This matter is under consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government be able to come to a decision in this connection in some reasonable time ?

Chief Minister : The Nawab Singh Committee which is a sub committee of the Land Reforms Committee has yet to submit its report. This report will be considered by Government immediately after its submission .

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Government be able to settle this matter in about six months' time ?

Chief Minister : Action will be possible after the report has been submitted.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will it be possible to take action on the report ?

Chief Minister : The members of the committee know better.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Why are the committees named after the names of the officers ?

Chief Minister : The committees are usually known after the names of the chairmen.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the Government instruct this Committee to expedite submission of its report ?

Chief Minister : We are always asking the committees to finish their work as soon as they can.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is it not a fact that the Financial Commissioner asked for submission of the report within a period of two months but the same has not been submitted for the last two years ?

Chief Minister : All this depends on the Members of the Committee

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is it not due to some mischief (शरारत). (ਸ਼ਰਾਰਤ) on the part of Government.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member 'should' withdraw the word 'mischief' (शरारत.) (ਸ਼ਰਾਰਤ)

Chief Minister : What can the Government do when the members are not inclined to submit the report ?

REPRESENTATION FROM CLASSICAL TEACHERS.

*1668. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state ;

- (a) whether he has received any representation from the teachers of classical languages of the State ;
- (b) the nature of their grievances and the action which Government has taken or intends to take thereon ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes.

- (b) The main demands of these teachers are (i) that they should be treated at par with English teachers in matter of pay, (ii) that strict seniority should be the basis of promotion and selection promotions should be stopped, (iii) that the warnings given to or disciplinary action taken against office bearers of their Union should be withdrawn and (iv) that the percentage of posts in various grades of this service should be brought in line with the percentage obtainable on the Provincial Educational Service, Class III. These demands have been considered and Government have agreed to the last two items, but items Nos. (i) and (ii) cannot be considered favourably on account of administrative and financial considerations involved.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is some distinction going to be made between men teachers and lady teachers ?

Minister : There is always difference between them but the case is being considered.

Mr. Speaker : The question relates to the grades of teachers.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has some representation been made by the lady-teachers also that their case for revision of grades should be considered ?

Minister : The matter is under consideration.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Have lady-teachers got a different union from that of men-teachers and is it recognised by the Government ?

Minister : There is only one Union.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It has been stated that the Government is unable to concede the demands on account of financial difficulties. Will the Government be prepared to consider the matter after some time ?

Minister : The Government will surely consider the matter when funds are available.

DISPLACED LOCAL BODIES' TEACHERS.

***1669. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the reasons why the service of displaced local bodies' teachers is not considered continuous ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Due to gap in service it is not continuous.

DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS.

***1741. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation from the District Board Teachers of the State that the District Board Schools be provincialised. If so the action Government proposes to take on their representation ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : Yes. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Shri Virendra : When will the decision be taken in this matter ?

Minister : As early as possible.

Shri Virendra : What will be the duration of that 'early period'.

Minister : As may be necessary.

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF VILLAGE CHOWKIDARS.

***1751. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government has received any representations from the villages that the number of village chowkidars be reduced proportionately in every village ; if so, the action Government intends to take in the matter ;
- (b) whether the Government intends to consult the Civil Panchayats in the matter of reducing the number of chowkidars in the different villages ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) First part. Yes.

Second part and (b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has it not been the policy of the Congress in the past that the burden of expenditure in connection with chowkidars should be borne by the Government instead of by the Zamindars ?

Chief Minister : I am unable to say anything about it.

JANGRA BRAHMINs OF KARNAL DISTRICT.

***1752. Chaudhri Jagdish Chander :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Jangra Brahmins (Khatis) of Karnal District represented to the Government for declaring them as statutory agriculturists under the Punjab Land Alienation Act 1900 ; If so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon ;

(b) whether Government is aware that the population and lands owned by these people are larger than those of their brethren in the Rohtak District, who have been declared as statutory agriculturists ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes, by the All India Jangid Brahmin League, Delhi on their behalf, but they were not considered fit for such a declaration.

(b) According to the statistics collected in 1939, their population and land owned by them were smaller than those of Rohtak District.

UNTRAINED STAFF IN THE SCHOOLS OF LOHARU TEHSIL, DISTRICT HISSAR.

***1758. Shri Buja Ram Bhagat :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that mostly untrained staff is working in the schools in Loharu area ;

(b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh - (a) Enquiry is being made.

(b) The matter will be considered in the light of the enquiry.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If the inquiry reveals that untrained teachers are working there, will the Government be prepared to replace them by trained teachers ?

Minister : Yes, as far as trained teachers are available.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government know since when untrained teachers have been working there ?

Minister : The Government came to know about it only a short time back.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When was Loharu State merged in District Hissar and when did the Government come to know that untrained teachers were working there ? Since when has the Government been considering the question of providing them the necessary training or replacing them by trained ones ?

Minister : The hon. Member can find out the date of merger of the Loharu State from the Government Gazette.

Sardar Partap Singh : Does not the Government propose to undertake some programme of giving gradual training to the existing teachers instead of turning them out ?

Minister : The Government intends to adopt that method also as far as possible.

REFUND OF COLLECTIVE FINES TO CERTAIN VILLAGES AND URBAN LOCALITIES.

***1530. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the decision arrived at by the Government regarding the refund of the collective fines imposed upon certain villages and urban localities referred to in unstarred question No. 252 put during the Budget Session of 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : No decision regarding refund has yet been arrived at.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What has the Government decided about the recovery of fines from those from whom some arrears are still due ?

Chief Minister : I have submitted that the decision regarding the realisation of arrears has been suspended.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When will the Government be able to decide whether the arrears are to be realised or not ?

Chief Minister : If and when some decision is made about it that would be made known.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that those who had not paid the fines so far have been placed in an advantageous position by remission of these, while the amounts already recovered are not being refunded ?

Chief Minister : I have submitted that the recovery has been suspended. The question of refunding the amounts already realised is engaging the attention of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will interest be also paid to those whom these amounts are refunded ?

Chief Minister : The Government does not believe in usury.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Since when is the question of refund of these amounts under consideration ?

Chief Minister : It is under consideration since the decision to suspend recovery of fines was arrived at.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I wish to know the length of the period for which it has been under consideration.

Chief Minister : Since suspension of recoveries.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When was it done ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has not the Government decided to suspend its realisation with a view to remit it in cases where it has not been realised ?

Chief Minister : It has not been remitted.

REFUND OF DEPOSITS MADE IN THE COURTS NOW IN PAKISTAN.

***1531. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any machinery has been set up for recovering from the Pakistan Courts the deposits of the accused who were standing their trials there before 15-8-47 ;
- (b) whether ornaments and other movable property of complainants in burglary and theft cases from Patti Tehsil pending in Courts at Kasur were lying in deposit there ; if so, the steps taken by the Government to get this property returned to the rightful owners ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The deposits mentioned in question are a species of court deposits. The Inter-Dominion Agreement of December, 1948, directed payment of court deposits held up in one Dominion to the nationals of the other without the intervention of the Custodian. Like many other provisions of this Agreement, the item relating to

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the refund of court deposits has also not been implemented so far.

- (b) Ornaments and other moveable property mentioned in this part of the question is also covered by the term "court deposits" and the explanation offered in para. (a) above will also apply to this type of property.

EXECUTION OF SARDAR CHANAN SINGH

***1532. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the reply to my starred question No. 1251¹ put on 24-10-49 is ready ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes, it has been given separately¹.

SARDAR KHUSHAL SINGH.

***1533 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Sardar Khushal Singh of village Padri Kalan, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, was awarded a life sentence by the Special Tribunal in the First Lahore conspiracy case of 1914-15 ;
- (b) whether his property including land was ordered to be confiscated ;
- (c) whether Sardar Khushal Singh was released after having undergone about ten years' imprisonment ;
- (d) whether his property was restored ;
- (e) whether Shrimati Jeo, widow of Sardar Khushal Singh, referred to above, applied to the Government for the restoration of her husband's property ; if so, the decision arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The information is not available but is being collected.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. The matter is receiving Government's consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

***1675. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

1. Vide Debates of 24-10-49.

- (a) the reasons for appointing the Chief Parliamentary Secretary ;
- (b) the functions the Chief Parliamentary Secretary had to perform ;
- (c) to what extent the work of the Government has suffered due to the non-appointment of the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) It was found necessary to appoint Chief Parliamentary Secretary in the interest of work.

(b) The statement is laid on the table¹.

(c) The Ministers had to do more arduous work. The help which they were to receive from Parliamentary Secretaries was not available.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : May I know the work which used to be taken from the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries by the last Government ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The question relates only to the Chief Parliamentary Secretary.

Chief Minister : I have placed the detailed reply on the table of the House.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS.

***1745. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state : —

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Volunteer Corps has been wound up ; if so, since when and the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the number of years during which it worked ;
- (c) the number of young men trained by it ;
- (d) whether any other institution or body has taken up its work ; if so, the name of such institution or body ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The Punjab Volunteer Corps has not been wound up. This organisation is being organised with effect from 1-4-50 and a section of it will be amalgamated with the Police.

(b) This organisation was created in December, 1947 and will remain in existence.

(c) (i) 13000 (thirteen thousand only) volunteers were trained during the above period.

1. Kept in the Library.

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(ii) A total number of 112321 men and 107884 women were trained by this organisation upto the 31st January, 1950 under the Mass Training Scheme.

(d) The work done by the Punjab Volunteer Corps will, it is contemplated, be entrusted to the Police administration with effect from the 1st April, 1950.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government is making any use of the persons who have been trained according to this scheme ?

Chief Minister : They will be made use of when necessary.

Mr. Speaker : Next question.

G. P. FUND OF PANDIT SANT LABHAYA.

***1747. Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons why full payment has not yet been made of the amount of G. P. Fund standing to the credit of Pandit Sant Labhaya, Head Assistant, Inspector General of Prisons' office who retired on 16-- 7-- 47 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Pt. Sant Labhaya retired from service on the 16th July, 1947 i. e. before partition. The sum of Rs. 3261/1/- out of the amount standing at his credit in the G. P. Fund account was paid to him on the 23rd July, 1947. The balance which amount to about Rs. 363/- or so, has not yet been paid to him as the exact amount payable has not been intimated by the Accountant General Punjab (Pakistan). The Accountant General Punjab (India) is in correspondence with the Accountant General Punjab (Pakistan) on the subject.

G. P. FUND OF PANDIT SANT LABHAYA.

***1748. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons why full payment has not yet been made of the amount of G. P. Fund standing to the credit of Pandit Sant Labhaya, Head Assistant, Inspector General of Prisons' office who retired on 16-7-47 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given to the previous Question No. *1747 on the same subject.

NON AVAILABILITY OF PRINTED REGISTERS OF DEATHS AND BIRTHS.

***1534. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the reply to my starred question No. 1156¹ put on 10-10-49 is ready ?

1. Vide Debates of 10-10-1949.

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : Reply to Starred Assembly Question No. 1156 was issued in December last.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Although I have not received a copy of the reply yet I would like to know as to what the people would do in case of any dispute regarding the date of birth of any child born during the six months in which no enteries were made in the police registers ?

Minister : We are sorry for this fact. But I think it must have been due to certain insurmountable difficulties.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Even a single day matters in civil cases and in services. May I know if the people are going to be penalised for this irregularity on the part of Government ?

Minister : We will try to find out the average of the ages of the children born during this period of six months.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Couldn't the Police officials make the enteries of births and deaths in some other registers in the case of non-availability of prescribed registers ?

Minister : They should have made the enteries on blank paper.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that the police authorities of Patti wrote to the Civil Surgeon, Amritsar for permission to make such enteries on blank papers, but the permission was not given ?

Minister : I thank the hon. Member for the information he has given. As regards the refusal of the Civil Surgeon, we will enquire.

Mr. Speaker : Next question.

AREA FOR THE NEW CAPITAL At CHANDIGARH.

***1673. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total area of land which Government proposes to acquire for building the new Capital at Chandigarh ;
- (b) the percentage of the barren land in the area to be acquired ;
- (c) the total number of wells situated in this area ;
- (d) the total number of garlens in the area ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) A total area of 7914 acres is proposed to be acquired for the Capital Scheme.

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- (b) The percentage of barren land to be utilised will depend on the reclamation proposals which are under investigation.
- (c) the total number of wells situated in this area is 46.
- (d) the total area under the gardens in the land proposed to be acquired is 159 acres. The number is not available at the moment.

NEW CAPITAL.

***1674. Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of persons that will be displaced by acquisition of the site for the New Capital at Chandigarh ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make any alternative arrangements for their rehabilitation ;
- (c) the amount of compensation which the Government intend to pay per acre for land thus acquired ;
- (d) the amount per acre Government intends charging from persons who buy sites at the new Capital ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) The number of persons that will be displaced by acquisition of land for the capital Scheme will be 5628. .

- (b) the Government have already in hand proposals for allotment of evacuee land to persons likely to be displaced from the Capital site.
- (c) As far as possible, land of equivalent value will be given to the displaced owners in lieu. However, compensation, where necessary, will also be given, the amount depending on the quality of land acquired.
- (d) The rate per acre to be charged from the buyer of sites at Chandigarh will be determined after the Development costs are worked out on the completion of Master Plan, which is under preparation.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know if the Government has finally decided as to which land and from which villages it is to be acquired ?

Minister : This thing has not been finally decided so far.

Sardar Bachan Singh : How can the hon. Minister say in the absence of any final decision as to which land would be acquired ?

Minister : These are only approximate figures.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know as to what price will be charged from the people intending to purchase plots at the site of the Capital ?

Minister : It has not been decided as yet.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has said that about 5,000 people would be displaced from the site of the Capital. Is it the number of families. ?

Minister : Yes, it is the number of families.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the Government will be prepared to change the site on being approached by some deputation of people ?

Minister : The Government always decides cases on their merits and not under pressure.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the decision for the site of the Capital has been changed twice or thrice ?

Minister : No, that is not correct.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the land required for the Capital would be acquired as a whole or in instalments according to requirement ?

Chief Minister : It will be acquired as and when required.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if any priority list will be prepared for the intending purchasers of plots at the site ?

Chief Minister : There is no need of preparing any priority list. Plots will be given to all desirous persons.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the previous decision for the site was changed on account of the agitation of the Anti-Rajdhani Committee ?

Minister : If any change has been made it has been done on merits of the case and not under pressure.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is there any possibility of changing this decision once again keeping in view the merits of the case ?

Minister : There is little possibility now.

Demands For Supplementary Grants

PROVINCIAL EXCISE

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,87,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,87,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir,...

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's motion is out of order. He may however, oppose the demand as a whole. I would like to make it clear to the hon. Members that while speaking on Supplementary Demands, they cannot discuss the general policy of the Government, but can only speak to the items contained in a particular demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would abide by your ruling, Sir, and would confine myself to the subject matter of opium.

Mr. Speaker : What is in that item that the hon. Member wants to discuss ? The total expenditure anticipated is more than the sanctioned allotment owing to an increase in price. What criticism can the hon. Member make in this connection ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If you allow me to have my say, I will put my view point before the House.

Mr. Speaker : He should not discuss the general policy.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, with your permission I wish to draw the attention of the House to the question of the sale of opium in our State. In this matter the hon. Members are aware that the licensed opium shops are supplied opium by the Government from the Government Opium Factory at Ghazipur. I would like to say that opium-taking is a very bad habit. On this question there can't be any two opinions in this House. Even the U. N. O. has thought fit to condemn the use of opium. Our hon. Chief Minister has characterised the discouragement of the use of opium as an international obligation in his Budget Speech on page 22. He has expressed the desire to stop the use of opium in a period not exceeding ten years. In view of the importance of the matter, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members towards this bad habit. In this connection, it will not be out of place to quote the example of China—a country so much addicted to it. When Dr. Sun Yat Sen came to power he realized that the foreign powers were encouraging this evil among the Chinese people in order to keep their hold upon them. He made efforts to root out this evil. The Nationalist Government under Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek also tried to follow in his footsteps in this matter. But when China was overrun by the Japanese the same old imperialist policy was again followed in order to demoralize the people of China. I am pained to see that no efforts are being made by our Government towards discouraging the supply and use of opium in our State. I don't say that our Government intends demoralizing the hon. Members also.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, it is a reflection on the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I have explained to the House the manner in which the Nationalist Government of China dealt with this evil and the praiseworthy work that it did for the people of that country. But the present Government of ours which claims to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi seems to be inactive as far as the question of taking rigorous steps in this direction is concerned. It is a matter of regret that instead of doing its duty to the people the Government is after money. All its efforts are directed towards getting money anyhow.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon Member is discussing the policy of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that opium has got no food value at all. I cannot say whether our worthy Minister can prove that it does possess food value just as he did in the case of beer. (*Interruptions*) Here I wish to refer to page 3 of the Memorandum.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member to refer to this subject on some other Demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, what I wish to submit is that the original grant of five lakhs which was sanctioned by this House has been further increased by Rs. 21,130. This increase seems to be quite unreasonable.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I reminded the hon. Member in the very beginning not to discuss the policy of the Government which was agreed to by the House when the original Demand was sanctioned in the Budget.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I want to give reason as to how the Government has been in the wrong to demand additional funds to meet the increased expenditure on opium.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The principle of opium consumption has been accepted by the House. Now to say that the Government should not have done that or it has been in the wrong is going beyond the scope of the Supplementary Demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I want to advance argument as to why I am opposed to this particular demand. My point is that the Demand for the purchase of more opium is detrimental to the interests of the State.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is exactly the point which the hon. Member cannot be allowed to bring forward. (*Laughter.*)

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If you just permit me I will show that I am not opposing this Demand merely for the sake of opposition. I have weighty reasons to advance against this Demand. I may point out that the Govern-

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

ment should have some justification is demanding more funds for the purchase of opium, if the commodity had any food value.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** There is no question of food value in the Demand.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When under the instructions of the Government of India, they have to introduce total prohibition of opium, they should have purchased opium worth Rs. 5 laks and nothing more. I maintain that to demand additional funds for the purchase of opium is not at all in the interests of the people of the State.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member ought to have given expression to those sentiments when that sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was under discussion in the original Budget. He cannot do it now.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would like to draw your attention to the explanation given for this additional demand in the Supplementary Estimates. It runs—

It is now expected that the Manager, Government Opium Factory, Ghazipur, will supply 348 maunds of opium to East Punjab. The cost price of opium being Rs. 37-7-0 per seer at present, the total expenditure is anticipated to be Rs. 5,21,130 as against the sanctioned allotment of Rs. 5,90,000. Additional funds to the extent of Rs. 21,130 are required.

It will thus be seen that nowhere has it been stated that due to rise in the price of opium, Government had to incur more expenditure and that is the reason why Government has come forward for money. Nor has it been stated as to why has the price of opium been increased. Anyhow whatever the reason may be, this is not in the interests of the province and the action of the Government.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow the hon. Member to discuss that.

Minister For Public Works : Will it not be advisable that the hon. Speaker should arrange for the tuition of such hon. Members who do not understand such simple rules.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** • No reflection, please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I am not discussing the general policy of the Government. I want to submit that the Government by spending money over and above the sanctioned allotment has done something which is detrimental to the interests of the State.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have pointed out more than once that the hon. Member is not entitled to say what he is saying. He referred to the U. N. O., he referred to China; he said that the Government should not have purchased opium and so on. May I ask how he is relevant in bringing in all these matters.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I have said that in regard to this matter Government has not acted in the interests of the State and the consumer and in support of my argument I cited the example of China and urged that we should take a lesson from what happened there and should refrain from doing a similar thing here.

Minister For Public Works : The hon. Member seems to possess lot of opium. He can rest assured that it will sell like hot cakes. (*Laughter*).

Chief Minister : May I ask your permission, Sir, to say something in this connection. When the hon. Member gets this information, he will probably feel satisfied and it may not be necessary for him to continue his criticism. For the information of the House, I submit that the consumption of excise opium during 1948-49 was 387 maunds. In accordance with Government of India's orders it was reduced to 348 maunds for the current year. Accordingly, its consumption per 10,000 of population per annum in this State is 11.4 seers against 44 seers in Pepsu. In accordance with Government of India's latest policy, its consumption is to be brought to 6 seers per 10,000 of population per annum within a period of four years (i. e. in the year 1954-55) and total prohibition is to be enforced within a period of 10 years. i. e., after 1958. Keeping this, in view a cut of 41½ maunds has been applied in our excise indent for 1950-51 thus reducing the consumption from 348 maunds to about 300 maunds. Similar cut will be applied in the indents for subsequent years. It will thus be seen that this Government is already doing everything possible in this direction in accordance with Government of India's settled policy.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would like to remind the hon. Members that I have to apply Guillotine at 5-45 p m. So they have to discuss all these demands which they want to, before that time.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has informed the House that the Government had to purchase 348 maunds of opium from the Government of India. May I know why should the Government purchase all the quantity ?

Minister For Labour and Excise: If I am permitted, I would clear the position. The Central Government fixes quota of opium for the different States and whatever quota is thus fixed, the State is bound to purchase it. The Punjab State had thus to purchase the quota fixed for it and had to pay the cost which exceeded Rs. 5 lacs by Rs. 21,130. Hence a Supplementary Demand had to be brought before the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I do not see eye to eye with what the hon. Minister has stated. It was not the steel quota which the state had to buy in the interest of the people and for the industrial development of the State.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

It was also not the quota of food-grains which the Government was required to purchase to save the public from starvation. It was opium and if the Government had purchased less quantity, I do not think the Government of India would have taken offence at it and pressed the Punjab Government to purchase the whole of it. Had they done so, it would have gone counter to their policy of prohibition of opium which they want to introduce gradually and accomplish in 10 years. In this connection, I am reminded of a story. Once, an old bania fell ill. His sons spent huge amounts on him. When he recovered from illness, people came to see him and asked him if he had recovered fully. He told them that there was no doubt that he had recovered from his illness but all the same that did not mean that he was free from all the worries as even after so much money was spent he had yet to die. Similarly, the greatest worry of the people is this 'bania' Government (Interruptions.)

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of Order, Sir. May I know if the discussion raised by the hon. Member is relevant ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member to be relevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What I wish to point out is that Government should not make money from opium also. I do not find any justification on the part of the Government to spend public money on such matters which are instrumental in affecting the health of the people with a view to earn more.

Chaunhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) :
Sir, I rise to say a few words with regard to the expenditure of Rs 97,300 involved in connection with the Land Rovers. My hon. Friends are fully aware of the fact that ours is a deficit State. On the one hand, we do not find any proposal for tapping the resources of our State, while on the other, we find huge amounts being spent on purchasing jeeps and rovers for the officers of the department who previously used to cover the distances on horseback for carrying on the detection work. As a matter of fact, I do not find any justification on the part of the Government in spending a fairly large amount simply to provide vehicular conveyance to the officers. It is the intention of the Government to provide separate transport for 6 or 7 districts where transport facilities in the form of private buses and other such conveyance arrangements are already available. Even in the United Punjab, which comprised 29 districts, such a huge and unnecessary provision was not made in connection with the detection work. Officers there fully realized their responsibilities. I really fail to understand the reason why it has been felt necessary provide jeeps and rovers for the officers when they can easily do without these in detecting cases in connection with illicit distillation and smuggling of liquor. In fact there seems to be no necessity to purchase rovers when we find police stations and sub-stations at every 10 or 15 miles in every nook and

corner of the State where buses are available at any time. It goes without saying that it will give us the greatest pleasure if our Government took adequate steps to introduce prohibition in our State. But before taking such a step, it is necessary to take stock of the financial position of the State. I am really constrained to remark that the police officers for whom these rovers and jeeps are meant have become so lethargic and ease-loving that they do not like to walk even a few miles on foot—nay they will not move out of their doors for any official work unless they find jeeps waiting for them outside their houses. I have noticed it often that the police officers who live like princes have become so careless and lethargic that they utilize these jeeps even on ordinary occasions when they could easily do without these. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Chief Minister that it would really have been in the fitness of things if instead of spending huge amounts on useless and unnecessary things, some hospitals and schools were opened in the rural areas. By taking such a step, our Government would have really done something substantial in the interests of the people. But it is really a pity that while making such genuine demands to improve the lot of the people in the rural areas, objection is raised by the Government that we are raising the rural-urban controversy. There can, however, be no two opinions on this matter that we cannot succeed in introducing prohibition in our State unless and until we give proper education to our children. Ours is a poor State and it is therefore the duty of the Government not to waste public money. The officers whose duty it is to detect cases in connection with illicit distillation and smuggling of liquor should be asked to walk small distances on foot and where it is necessary to have any conveyance they should not hesitate to utilize horses and bicycles for this purpose. It seems that our Government have not taken any pains in scrutinizing the demands of the departments or in other words they place such unnecessary demands without scrutinizing them as are not instrumental in doing any good to the public. Perhaps they are under the impression that the hon. Members have come to support all items that they place before this House. I am of the opinion that our Government is not justified in supplying special transport to different departments.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member instead of discussing the land rovers meant for public transport seems to oppose the general policy of the Government.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, I am glad to see that there has been an addition in the '*Pithus*' of Government.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This word is unparliamentary. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, how can an hon. Member who has already been a Minister thrice call others '*Pithus*' ?

Chaudhri Labri Singh : Sir, since you have been pleased to rule this word as unparliamentary, I withdraw it. But all the same I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friend that I am not discussing the general transport policy of the Government. I am criticizing the unnecessary expenditure of Rs 97,300 required by the Excise Department for purchasing land rovers which are meant for those officials who would not like to walk on foot, nor they like to travel by public carriers. I am discussing this item simply to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that the hon. Ministers are under the impression that we are here to support anything and everything that is placed before the House by them. On the one hand, we find huge amounts being wasted on purchasing jeeps and land rovers while on the other we do not find any arrangements being made for opening new schools, hospitals and roads in the rural areas. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Minister-in-charge that if in spite of all that I have stated he insists on spending huge amounts on such matters which are not going to give any benefit to the general public, then I am sure, the condition of our State would go on worsening day by day. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Members to criticize each and every item. In spite of the decisions arrived at in the party meetings on these matters or in spite of the party whips issued to support such items, I would request them not to hesitate in exposing the Government, the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Minister-in-charge.

There are no two opinions on the point that the public money is being wasted by the Government ruthlessly and the claims of the poor people who form the majority of the population of the State continue to be ignored. The pressing need of the hour is to do something substantial to improve the hard lot of the poor masses. The expression of mere lip-sympathy on the part of the hon. Ministers in the course of their speeches is not going to give any satisfaction to the poor masses.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, on page 3 of the Supplementary Estimates, we find a sum of Rs. 2,87,200 under the Head 'Provincial Excise' being additional appropriation required to meet the anticipated excess. Under this head, we find Rs. 10,210 for Travelling Allowance of the officers of this department. We also find a sum of Rs. 5,300 for rewards to Government servants in connection with the detection of illicit distillation and smuggling cases. Sir, not only thousands but lakhs of rupees have been spent on travelling allowance of officers to prevent smuggling of opium and distillation of illicit liquor. I would therefore, submit that even if it is a necessary expenditure, it is the duty of the Government to see that the object for which this Supplementary Demand has now been made is really served. But I would frankly say that the money that has been spent by way of travelling allowance has not

achieved the desired results and similarly the sum of rupees four lakhs for which a Supplementary Demand has been put forward would also be unproductive of any good results. Under these circumstances, I think it is no use blindly incurring such huge expenditure on T. A., if it is barren of results. As the House is aware that prohibition was enforced in Rohtak district as an experimental measure and I would, therefore, like to quote the instance of this very district where illicit distillation of liquor is being carried on, on a large scale in spite of Government's spending considerable amount of expenditure on the T. A. of officers for detecting excise crimes. It is an open secret that illicit distillation was carried on in village Dhamar before the enforcement of prohibition in this district and now it has all the more increased. I made complaints about it to the district authorities but their efforts to check the crime have altogether proved abortive. The hon. Minister-in-charge should know that it is of no use presenting Supplementary Demand before the House and asking for more funds as all previous attempts made by the Government to stop illicit distillation have been nullified by a lack of willing cooperation by the police in this direction. It is generally observed that the members of police staff whether Inspectors of Police or Sub-Inspectors or Head Constables of Police are often found in league with the offenders and they at once quietly pass on the information of the impending raid by the officers with the result that the offenders escape long before the actual raid. Sometime back I informed the Excise Department about a working still and in return I received a letter of thanks from the department. But such a letter is of no significance when the Excise Department could not bring the offenders to book. The information is surreptitiously passed on to such persons who make good their escape. I would, therefore, like to inform the hon. Minister-in-charge that I would offer no objection to the acceptance of this Supplementary Demand provided it is made clear that this increasing expenditure will ensure satisfactory results in the matter of checking excise crimes. I must, however, admit that enforcement of prohibition has been of much value as the number of drunkards has not increased and that the persons who were addicted to the use of wine have abandoned it. But the Government should adopt effective measures to put a stop to illicit distillation of liquor in the State. I have no objection against this Supplementary Demand but all the same Government should see that there is proportionate improvement in the reduction of excise crimes in the State. The Government should also keep in view the fact that the work for which this Supplementary Demand is being made, is done in a satisfactory way. Besides Rohtak, illicit distillation is being carried on in the other districts as well.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up.

Sardar Fachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural.) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the

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Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 11,630 to meet the cost of cartridges to be supplied to the Excise Inspectorate Staff in certain districts. It is strange that on the one hand Government states that it has sanctioned additional police staff for the detection of excise crimes and on the other hand it is said that the police staff is not always available. I fail to understand how the Government can reconcile both these statements. The real fact is that many police officers have joined hands with the persons who carry on illicit distillation of liquor and in the face of this fact appointment of additional staff and equipping them with revolvers would be of no avail in putting a stop to these excise crimes. The honourable Minister-in-charge is aware that when the Congress Government came into power in the year 1947, it made loud professions that it would do its best to root out corruption from the State but what we see is that corruption is rather on the increase, so much so that the hon. Chief Minister had to admit that corruption had increased in the State. Similarly the Government has also admitted that the number of excise criminals has also increased manifold. The hon. Minister-in-charge would perhaps recollect that he admitted during his speech in a public meeting that the excise crimes had increased 20 times the pre-independence days. The hon. Minister-in-charge is of the view that land rovers will help the staff in raiding working stills in time. If crimes had substantially decreased by providing such transport facilities, I would have certainly asked the Government to make increased provision in this behalf. But excise crimes have not been held in check and the condition continues to be the same. As regards Ludhiana district I make bold to say that excise crime is on the increase and the responsibility for all this lies solely with the administration of the Government. To effect a cure of the disease after its diagnosis one should advantageously study the root cause of such a disease rather than fumble and fiddle about with palliatives. But the pity is that the Government do not deal effectively with that part of administration which is hampering the elimination of such an element from the State. As a matter of fact the distillation of illicit liquor is being carried on openly in villages and the police officers are hand in glove with the culprits. So long as the Government do not take stringent measures against the police officers, there cannot be reduction in the excise crimes in the State. Sir, there is a general tendency towards slackness in the services to-day. No public servant wants to take pains in the discharge of his duties. If the staff employed on 'Grow More Food' schemes is given a vehicle, the excise Staff thinks why should they not have Land Rovers, and the infection then spreads to other departments. Every official thinks that he should also be allowed to have some transport at his disposal so that he may not have to take any pains.

The fact of the matter is that our Government has no vision, so far as its excise policy is concerned. It has not made any effort whatsoever to

remove this vice of drinking from this State. On the other hand it seems to be encouraging the people to indulge in it more and more, since the major portion of its revenues comprises income from excise. You might be surprised to hear, Sir, that the income from excise in this State is even more than the income from land revenue. Whereas the Madras Government is foregoing an income of Rs. 16 to 17 crores on account of its prohibition policy and the Government of Bombay has also decided to forego revenue on this account from first April, our Government has no such object in view but on the other hand wants to increase its present income from this source. It will be no exaggeration if it is said that our Government desires that more and more people should fall into the evil habit of drinking. This will be clear to any astute observer of its policy.

Some days back, I had a talk with the Inspector-General of Police on this subject, in the course of which he told me that he had written to the Government that so long as the Excise Department continued to function as it was functioning for sometime back, the excise policy of the Government would fail to achieve the desired result and that a change in the policy was urgently called for, if illicit distillation of liquor had to be stopped. What is the present condition, so far as the problem of illicit distillation is concerned? The Government itself has been forced to admit that it has been on the increase. What more proof is needed of the complete failure of the excise policy of our Government. Under these circumstances, we are compelled to say.

इस घर को आग लग गई घर के चिराग से

ਇਸ ਘਰ ਕੋ ਆਗ ਲਗ ਗਈ ਘਰ ਕੇ ਚਿਰਾਗ ਸੇ ।

The fact of the matter is that our Government and the hon. Ministers themselves do not want to stop illicit distillation. Has any concerted action been taken in the matter; have any whole-hearted efforts been made in this direction; have any 'Anti Illicit Distillation' weeks or fortnights been celebrated with a view to eliciting public co-operation in rounding up the maximum number of offenders? In my opinion, Sir, the Government has not at all been serious in the matter. During the last two years, several cases of excise offences were challaned but they remained pending for a very long time. The result was that the people got the impression that the Government was not serious in the matter. I would, therefore, urge that in future all such cases should be speedily disposed of. The excuse of having no Magistrates to try such cases sounds ridiculous, especially in view of the fact that the Government has spent a sum of about rupees one lakh on Land Rovers. Has the Government made any attempt to justify this expenditure by the results achieved since the use of Land Rovers by the excise staff? Surely this House has a right to know, on the basis of facts and figures, as to what measure of success has

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its efforts to prevent illicit distillation met as a result of the use of these vehicles. So far as my knowledge goes, even now-a-days illicit distillation of liquor continues unchecked in the districts of Ludhiana and Ferozepore. The people who indulge in this practice are still in possession of the necessary apparatus and are undaunted. Why? The cause is not far to seek. The offenders are in collusion with the excise staff and the police, every-one of whom receives in the bargain a fixed sum per mensem as illegal gratification and wine to his heart's fill. Several complaints of this nature have come to my notice in which the staff of the Police Stations is stated to have been conniving at these offences in return for regular supply of liquor to them by the offenders. About one Police Station, my information is that all its officials are in the habit of drinking and have, therefore, struck a bargain with those engaged in illicit distillation.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Has the hon. Member helped the staff in the detection of any still (*Bhatthi*) ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : If like some hon. Friends, I were in the habit of drinking, I would have some knowledge in the matter but.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflections please. Nobody knows for certain who drinks and who does not. (*Interruption*).

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir; my hon. Friends get irritated when I disclose the true facts about them, because truth is always bitter. I was asking the Government if it can justify all this expenditure on land rovers, revolvers and cartridges by quoting facts and figures and comparing the incidence of excise offences before and after purchasing them. Or, is it that this money was spent to satisfy the vanity of the staff to show off and to appear as highly-placed officers and thus be in a position to feather their own nests? Has any use been made of revolvers and cartridges or have they only served the purpose of embellishing the bearing and form of the staff concerned? I want to know if any raids have been organized in the ilaqas where people are believed to be engaged freely in illicit distillation of liquor. I know for certain that very few raids have been organized in these ilaqas. The House has a right to know how the Government justifies this expenditure. Has it ascertained the true position? Can it tell us the number of such offences in the pre-partition Punjab, the number of offences in the years 1948 and 1949 and the present position, and the effect of the supply of land rovers on the incidence of offences? Are such crimes decreasing or are they on the increase?

Sir, it is with great regret that I have to point out that our Government has not so far made any serious efforts to tackle the problem and the people are ruining themselves as a result of addiction to this vice. The Government has admitted that illicit distillation has increased manifold. It

is all the more regrettable that our Government is dependent for a major portion of its revenues on income from excise. Income from this source is to-day as much as it used to be in the United Punjab, though there are now only 12 districts while formerly their number was 29. It is sad to imagine that the people who claim to be true followers of Mahatma Gandhi, should be encouraging the vice of drinking in this province, whereas the Governments of other provinces are introducing prohibition. Notwithstanding eye-washes, judged by its actions and deeds alone, our Government compares unfavourably even with the Unionist Government. When the other States are manœuvring like that I do not know why the admirers of the Congress are encouraging the use of wine in this State.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : They 'are trying to do something good and therefore the word 'manoeuvre' should not have been used for them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What I wanted to say was that the other States were manœuvring to discourage the use of wine whereas this Government is encouraging it. If this Government were to do something good, I would surely support and praise it at all places. But the tragedy is that there is a wide gulf between their professions and their practices.

हाथी के दांत खाने के और दिखाने के और ।

ਹਾਥੀ ਕੇ ਦਾਂਤ ਖਾਨੇ ਕੇ ਔਰ ਦਿਖਾਨੇ ਕੇ ਔਰ ।

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : But is not the same true of the party of the hon. Member ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Sardar Sahib is not aware that responsibility of the Government and not that of individuals or their parties is under discussion. Here I am charging the Government for its failure in stopping illicit distillation. It appears as if it has purchased land rovers and the ammunition just for the sake of display and no useful purpose has so far been served by these things. There are no facts to justify their purchase and the money spent on them is a sheer waste. As a matter of fact, the Government appears to be befooling the public by useless stunts. And after all what can be expected of it ? It is not capable of doing anything useful as it always dances to the tune of the subordinate officers. The Ministers do not have the ability and experience to give a lead to their departments. They only know how to append their signature to the files.

Minister for Local Self Government and Labour : The hon. Member has also been a Minister for five days.

Sardar Bachan Singh : In case there be any complaint in respect of those five days, I am answerable for that.

Sir, what I am driving at is that the Punjab Government should have adopted a strong policy for discouraging illicit distillation. I am surprised to find that after partition the epidemic of illicit distillation is more widespread than it had ever been in this State. I consider that it was the moral duty of the Government to proceed very effectively against the offenders to convince us that it means business. But the tragedy is that this Government believes more in words and less in deeds. It should know that the necessity of words is dispensed with when one has recourse to practice.

ਮੁਸ਼ਕ ਆਨ ਅਸਤ ਕਿ ਖੁਦ ਬੋਧਦ

ਨਾ ਕਿ ਅਤਾਰ ਬਗੋਧਦ ॥

ਮੁਸ਼ਕ ਆਨ ਅਸਤ ਕਿ ਖੁਦ ਬੋਧਦ

ਨਾ ਕਿ ਅਤਾਰ ਬਗੋਧਦ ॥

In the end, Sir, I can't help saying that huge sums of Rs. 93,000 and Rs. 11,000 have been wasted for nothing.

Minister for Local Self Government and Labour : [The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad] (*Hindi*) : Sir, one of my hon. Friends has tried to show that this Government has taken no steps to reduce the consumption of opium in the State. He was also pleased to say that people had been made to consume more opium than before. In this connection I am to point out that the Government has a settled policy and it is in accordance with the policy of the Central Government which aims at putting a complete stop to the use of opium. The hon. Chief Minister only a little while ago told the House that this year our Government had to spend Rs. 21,130 more than what it spent last year. But this should not be taken to mean that the Government purchased greater quantity of opium than it purchased last year. The reason for increase in expenditure is that the price of opium was increased and we had to buy the quota which was fixed for us at the beginning of the year. The House should bear in mind that when this quota is once fixed, it cannot be varied during the course of the year. So the reason for increase in the expenditure on opium by Rs. 21,130 is not due to the fact that we purchased greater quantity than before but it is simply due to increase in its price.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the quota cannot be decreased during the course of the year ?

Minister for Local self-Government and Labour : Yes, it cannot be decreased.

Sir, in these circumstances, the increase of Rs. 21,130 in our expenditure was inevitable. An hon. Member has been pleased to remark that this Government is not taking any steps to reduce the consumption of opium and he has tried to illustrate his point by giving examples of other States. I would like to inform him that the policy of this Government is to stop altogether the use of opium by 1958 definitely. Of course, exception will be made in the case of addicts and those who need opium on medical advice. All opium addicts will be registered by 1958 and no addition will be made in the list after that. In view of such a policy of this Government it is absolutely wrong to say that no steps are being taken to end the use of opium in the State.

One of my hon. Friends objected to the purchase of land rovers. He said that the Government had wasted public money in purchasing them. The hon. Member who raised this objection was a Minister of this State for a considerably long time and understands these matters very well, but I am sorry that he criticised this action of the Government merely for the sake of criticism. I wish to say for his information that formerly the task of detection of cases of illicit distillation was done by the Police. As the required strength of the police force could not be placed at the disposal of the Excise Department, the Government considered it essential that in order to carry on this work with the necessary speed, some fast-moving conveyance should be supplied to them. If it was reported that a still for the distillation of illicit liquor had been set up at a place 25 or 30 miles from a Police-Station, it was necessary that the detection staff should reach the spot as quickly as possible. If there was delay in reaching the spot, the work would have been completed and offenders would have escaped. Hundreds of instances have come to the notice of the Government in which the culprits ran away before the arrival of Police. In view of increase in cases of illicit distillation, the Government considered it essential to place land-rovers at the disposal of the staff connected with its detection. I am sorry that some hon. Members who desire the Government to carry on the work of prevention of this crime vigorously, criticise it when it takes some practical steps in its implementation.

Similarly one of the hon. Members objected to the expenditure of Rs. 11,630 on the purchase of revolvers for Excise staff. This had to be done on account of the lack of necessary co-operation on the part of the public. It would be realised that if the policemen or the detection staff of the Excise Department were unarmed, it would be very difficult for them to apprehend those who were engaged in illicit distillation because the latter were usually armed. In order to enable its staff to resist any attempt on their lives by those engaged in committing the offence, the Government decided to equip them with revolvers. It has been done mainly in the border districts in

[Minister for Local Self Government and Labour.]

which the crime of illicit distillation had increased. Then, Sir, one of my hon. Friends criticised the working of prohibition enforced in Rohtak. I am thankful to him for pointing out the shortcomings and drawbacks in it. I wish to assure the hon. Member that this task can be carried on with success, if the hon. Members representing that district give their full co-operation to the Government. When prohibition was enforced in Rohtak, the hon. Members representing that district, the Panchayats and other workers co-operated with the Government with the result that my hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma who made criticism today, admitted that the consumption of liquor had almost been completely ended in that district. I shall request those hon. members who wish the Government to do the task of prohibition with complete success, to help it in its work. Co-operation of the public is very essential for success in this work.

One of the hon. Members objected that the Government officers, police-officers and Ministers had not taken strict measures to root out illicit distillation of liquor. If my hon. Friend who said so, had examined the matter carefully, he would have found that thousands of such cases had been detected and the offenders brought to book. The Excise Act was also made more stringent. If these facts had been studied, there would have been no occasion for making these objections.

Then, Sir, it was said that the consumption of liquor in this State had increased. In this connection it was stated that the income of the Government from excise, was many times the income of the Government of pre-partitioned Punjab.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I did not say so.

Minister for Local Self Government and Labour : If the hon. Member did not say that it had increased any times, he did say that it had increased considerably. I am sorry that the hon. Member did not try to understand the real position. I wish to say for his information that the Still-Head Duty and Excise Duty in this State is four times of what it used to be in the pre-partitioned Punjab. Then, Sir, the license fee chargeable from liquor shops has been increased. Formerly, a person got license for sale of foreign liquor on payment of fifty rupees only. This income from licences which was only 38 thousand rupees before the partition amounted to Rs.48 lakh after the partition. Although this income has increased, yet the quantity of the liquor which is now consumed in our State, is much less than before. As a matter of fact we have effected this increase in our income by following the right course and not by increasing the number of liquor using people, as is wrongly alleged by some hon. Members. I, therefore, submit that the Demand be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,87,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of provincial Excise.

The motion was carried.

STAMPS.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,140 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of Stamps.

The motion was carried.

CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,220 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles and other Taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 21,01,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of Irrigation Works.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 21,01,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of Irrigation Works.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I want to make a few submissions regarding item number 11 on page 20 of the Supplementary Estimates. This item is 'Extensions and Linings of Bhiwani Distributary.' The estimated cost for these extensions is about Rs. 14 lakhs.

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal.]

A part of this amount of Rs. 14 lakhs has already been spent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister for Irrigation whether the rural people will also get any benefit from this proposed expenditure of Rs. 14 lakhs, because it appears from the item that this sum would be spent for the benefit of the people of Bhiwani town only. I do not object to the spending on towns by the Government. I only want to know whether any village will also be benefitted by this increase in water or not.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Villages will also be benefitted by this increase in water.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I am sorry, Sir, the hon. Member is no longer a minister and is not in possession of facts as they exist to-day.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I am in possession of facts.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Then he should occupy those benches.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is the duty of the Government to reply.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : They are keeping mum.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : I want to know whether any villages will also get more water on account of this increased water supply or not. What I fear is that this amount is being spent for the benefit of two or three factory owners of Bhiwani or for other towns people. Secondly, I would like to point out that a large part of this sum has already been wasted. I know from my personal knowledge that the people who are engaged on the work of linings, have spent Rs. 500 for things which were worth only 50 rupees. There is some scandal about the contracts also I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government to these things. I have no objection to the demand. What I want is that this amount should be spent rightly and for giving maximum benefit to people.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, as stated in the memorandum to Supplementary Estimates, the amount under Major Head 68 was only Rs. 7 lakhs. But afterwards, with the introduction of the Grow More Food Scheme, this amount was raised to Rs. 14 lakhs. The increased water supply will also be used for irrigation purposes. Moreover, it was decided that this sum should be expended up to June next and not up to 31st March. That is why the demand of Rs. 3 lakhs was put under a different head. This amount is, therefore, meant for the promotion of Grow More Food Scheme and not for Bhiwani Town only. It will benefit even rural people. I, therefore, submit that the demand be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 21,01,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950 in respect of Irrigation Works.

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Chief Minister : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,42,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,42,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of General Administration.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, here I wish to draw the attention of this House towards item number 3 of Rs. 35,350 in respect of T. A. and compensatory allowance. In this matter I wish to bring in a cut motion.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The cut motion is not in time.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir I wish to submit that a sum of about two lakhs and eighty-seven thousand has already been sanctioned under this head. But even then a demand for a further sum of Rs 35,350 is being brought before the House. In my opinion if we ourselves follow the rules there would be no need for demanding increasing sums of money for such purposes. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that instructions have been issued to the Government officials that they should submit certificates regarding the class of compartments by which they travel. It is my humble suggestion that such instructions should apply to the M. L. A.s also ; we are also a part of the Government machinery. At present, there might be not more than five per cent M. L. A.s who actually travel by class I and charge the fare for that class. Others travel by class III and charge for the class I. As a matter of fact we have issued instructions to the Government servants but none to the hon. Members of this House. Under these circumstances how can we expect the civil servants to comply with such instructions. We are the representatives of the people and we are the workers of that great organisation, known as the Congress. It does not become us to be such aristocrats. We are duty bound to raise the prestige of our country in the eyes of other nations. We have to make our nation great. So we should

[Sardar Sajjan Singh.]

try to make our living high, truthful and simple. We have before us the example of Pandit Mohan Lal Datta. He has been drawing Rs 150/- P. M. instead of Rs 300 P. M. from 1st of April 1948 till 31st January 1950.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is welcome to make a similar voluntary cut.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, in the same manner on an enquiry by Sardar Bachan Singh he has been told that he could get Rs 688/- as travelling allowance during the year 1949 if he had charged class I fare. But actually he charged only Rs 120/6/-, thus saving Rs. 567/10/- to the Government.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Member please say something about himself also ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : As far as I am concerned I received Rs. 334/9/- instead of Rs. 718/3/-. It is my conviction that if we ourselves do not follow the rules how can we expect others to follow them. Once my son put me a question in this connection. He asked me why is it that the Congress workers who are representatives of a great organisation and of the people charge class I fare while they travel in class III. I could not give any satisfactory answer to him. As a matter of fact, he was right. If we travel by class III we should charge fare for that very class and if we travel Inter class we should charge the fare accordingly. By so doing we can serve the people. We run the administration of this State. If we try to economise in such matters we can save a lot of public money and we can set a good example for others. Two hon. Members have taken Rs. 334 instead of Rs. 1620 and thus saved a sum of more than one thousand rupees to the public exchequer. The item of expenditure which amounts to rupees three lakhs consists of rupees one lakh in respect of T. A. and two lakhs in respect of compensatory allowance. If we charge the actual class by which journeys are undertaken, there can be a saving of rupees eighty thousand. But the condition is that we should follow the rules faithfully. In this matter, I think, our leaders are also not free from blame. While on every other minor matter we find the whips being issued, why cannot they issue whips to the party members in this matter of importance. T. A. rules and other instructions issued to the Government servants should be made applicable to the hon. Members also. At present we are unable to say anything to those who do not follow these rules strictly. But if instructions are issued to the hon. Members as well, we will be in a position to point out to them that they are doing an objectionable thing. (*An hon. Member :* If all the hon. Members start travelling class I what advantage will the Government derive from it ?) If there is no direct advantage, at least, the Government will get more money by way of increased railway fare.

Sardar Kartar Singh : I would suggest that instead of paying T. A., the hon. Members should be given railway tickets.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : This is also right. In this connection, I wish to point out that there are usually the meetings of various Committees of this House. Some hon. Members have to attend these meetings. One fact has come to my notice. An Advisory Board of the National Volunteer Corps was constituted. Government Publicity Department published a report of the working of this Committee. In the report there is a mention of two meetings of the Committee. The hon. Members received travelling allowances for these two meetings. But the proceedings of these meetings have not been entered into any minute book. In such matters, I know what happens. If we charge actual fare all others will follow our example. At present an ordinary man in the street says that the hon. Members are corrupt. He knows what we are doing. I am aware of the fact that no other Member except two travel by class I.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Such sweeping remarks are not allowed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Let me remove the misunderstanding of my hon. Friend on this point. When I held the office of Parliamentary Secretary, the average amount of my travelling allowance per mensem never exceeded Rs. 135/-. Besides, there is a lot of difference between the economic conditions prevailing now-a-days and those obtaining at that time. So my submission is that we should conduct ourselves in such a manner as is befitting people of an independent country. We are the representatives of the free people and we should not lose sight of the fact that there is always a glaring difference between the character of representatives of a slave country and those of an independent country. I would, therefore, suggest that it would be better and more economic for the Government to give railway passes to the hon. Members instead of allowing them to charge their travelling allowance at the present high rates. Thus any chances of underhand dealings will become remote.

Mr. Speaker : I think it is better to amend the Act.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Well, Sir, there is no necessity of amending the Act but the rules on the subject do require amendment. I would reiterate that we should present such a fine specimen of our character and set such an excellent example that the posterity or the members of the future legislatures may take pride in following our footsteps in the matter. It does not behove us to charge first class travelling allowance while we actually perform our journeys in third class. I would request the hon. Chief Minister and other hon. Ministers with all the emphasis at my command that they should resolutely decide to make those very travelling allowance rules applicable to themselves, which are enforced in the case of Government servants. This is necessary because in this way their travelling allowance bills would be

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subjected to the same check to which the travelling allowance bills of the Government servants are subjected. I think, if this suggestion is adopted, then necessity for bringing forward supplementary demands of the kind, now before the House, would be eliminated and Government will also escape the criticism of the public.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) :

Sir, I would like to make a few observations on the demand under discussion. It has become necessary for the Government to put this demand since an excess expenditure is anticipated on account of extensive touring by the Parliamentary Secretaries. Although the amount involved is not very large, yet I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that even this amount involves an unnecessary burden on the provincial exchequer because Punjab is a small and a deficit State.

Chaudhri Sher Singh : The hon. Member, too, had been a Deputy Minister.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But I resigned in view of what I have stated. The amount of travelling allowance may not be large, but I am concerned with the principle and spirit underlying this expenditure. I feel that an excessive expenditure, even of a pie, is bad but I would not take objection to an expenditure which is judicious and may amount to lakhs of rupees. I want to ask the Government to let this House know as to what important duties have been entrusted to the Parliamentary Secretaries, which cannot be accomplished by them at their headquarters. I fail to understand what sort of extensive touring is expected of them, when the hon. Ministers themselves extensively tour the State. As a matter of fact there appears to be no justification for the Parliamentary Secretaries to undertake extensive tours. We will be grateful to the hon. Chief Minister if he throws some light on the matter. This demand is going to be approved by the House in due course but I think that that approval carries more weight which is accorded by it after its having been fully convinced of the necessity for which the expenditure has been incurred.

The second point which I want to discuss is the question of aeroplanes maintained by the Government. It has been shown time and again during interpellations as well as in general discussions that Government had taken a wrong step in purchasing these aeroplanes which are proving a burden on the exchequer, but the Government is still hugging them on. I think that the Governments of free countries never fight shy of admitting their mistakes, if they commit any and they take immediate action to rectify them. Here it has been proved that the decision of the Punjab Government to purchase these aeroplanes was wrong and in fact they had wasted the hard earned money of the people. But they cling to them and try to justify their

maintenance. I would suggest that Government should lose no time in selling them away. Besides, in the words of an ex-Minister, they stand in the way of the Ministers charging their travelling allowances, because if the Ministers travel by aeroplanes they are not entitled to their T. A.

Then my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has drawn our attention to a high ideal, nay a Gandhian ideal in the matter of charging of travelling allowance by the Members of the Legislature. I appreciate his sentiments. I would rather praise that hon. Member also who travels in third class and yet charges no travelling allowance for his journey at all. This, too, is a lofty ideal. But I still admire the action of that gentleman who makes a gift of his property to Government to utilise it for the good of the people. But my submission is that when rules provide that hon. Members are entitled to charge first class travelling allowance, why should the honesty of the Members be doubted. Then if an hon. Member spends more than what he is entitled to charge. (supposing he travels in an aeroplane,) the Government will not give him more than what the rules provide on the subject. In other words as long as the rules exist, he is entitled to draw his travelling allowance for first class. I, therefore, don't think that the hon. Member is justified in unnecessarily making a mountain of a mole hill. (*An hon. Member*: Government servants travelling rules should be made applicable to the M. L. A.s). I am not aware nor even concerned whether similar travelling allowance rules exist for M. L. A.s and the Government servants. The point is that if the Assembly wants to act upon a certain ideal there is no bar to it. Government should frame such rules as would prevent the hon. Members from doing anything objectionable in this matter. In this connection I am reminded of the admirable example set up by our Friend Shri Mohan Lal Dutt.

Mr. Speaker : In what matter ? In putting up his resignation ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I think his resignation from the Assembly appears more grand than the action of those hon. Members who left their party on whose ticket they were elected and whom they had given their plighted word to abide by its discipline.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : No reflection please.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Well, Sir, what I wanted to drive at was that Pandit Mohan Lal's action in charging travelling allowance for third class, was commendable and all the hon. Members should try to follow in his foot steps. (*Hear, hear*). I bow my head out of respect for him. But I want that my hon. Friends who have taken objection to the hon. Members charging their first class T. A., should give their careful consideration to the praiseworthy action of Pandit Mohan Lal in resigning his membership from the Legislature. I think keeping of one's word of honour and the pledge is

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much more valuable than lakhs of rupees. I feel if my hon. Friends follow him in this respect, their action would be a source of greater encouragement to the hon. Members than their criticism of the travelling allowance which the hon. Members are entitled under the rules. (*Hear, hear.*) A supplementary sum of Rs. 2,06,130 is being shown for additional staff employed in connection with the 'Grow More Food' work. The Deputy Commissioners have been vested with vast powers and they have been asked to put their maximum efforts in the food production drive in their respective districts. It goes without saying that the increased food production is the pressing need of the hour. My hon. Friends are also not unmindful of the fact that huge amounts both from the Central as well as the State Exchequer are being spent in the furtherance of Grow More Food Schemes. In view of this fact what we have to see is this : whether these amounts are really spent in this direction. I am of the opinion that the Deputy Commissioners do not seem to make right use of the money intended to be spent in the furtherance of Grow More Food schemes ; they lack the zeal and the real spirit which could have been instrumental in making this campaign a success. Some of the Deputy Commissioners are of the opinion that huge amounts are being wasted and that unnecessary expenditure is being incurred by the Government which according to them is quite unproductive. Only recently one of the Deputy Commissioners told me that the Grow More Food schemes are quite useless. However what I would like to point out is that it is the duty of the Government to see that the officers who have been entrusted with this work, possess the real spirit and inner urge in them to implement such schemes successfully. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that it is well nigh impossible for a Government to carry on its day-to-day administration without the active co-operation of the public in general and its real and true representatives in particular. The presentation of such Supplementary Demands to this House is apt to remind a person of those old days when the Britishers who previously held the reins of our Government did not feel any necessity to sympathise with the public nor did they even think of carrying their administration with the co-operation of the real representatives. Here I cannot do without bringing this point to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister who also happens to be our Finance Minister that at the time of placing the demands for grants before the House he should realize whether or not the demands passed by this House are spent in the right direction with a view to doing some substantial good to general public. But so far as I am concerned I am of the opinion that this is not being done here in our State. I am convinced in my mind that so long as the Cabinet Ministers and the services do not fully achieve the active co-operation of good citizens and national minded people, it is not possible to improve the administration of our State. Instances in this connection are not wanting. I belong to the district of Rohtak. Our District Grow More Food Committee consists of 70 members.

There are hardly one or two members amongst them who are good citizens and national minded persons. These two persons are the only real representatives of the people.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think this point has already been discussed by the hon. Member on a previous occasion. He should not indulge in repetition.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Perhaps the hon. Member wants that the Deputy Commissioner should call him.....

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I am not a "toady" like my hon. Friend who would go to the Deputy Commissioner even without his calling him. I would not go even if I were sent for by him unless and until it is for some good national cause.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : The hon. Member has undergone sudden change within these three days.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I do not mind the interruptions made by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal who does not co-operate with the Government and who is out to criticize it without any rhyme or reason. However I would like to submit that men like my hon. Friend who lack the real spirit in them are not prepared to co-operate with the Government in running the administration of the State successfully. It is crystal clear from the interruption of my hon. Friend that he is out to criticize even the constructive suggestions made by the hon. Members for the good of the general public. I would, therefore, bring this point home to the hon. Members in general and the Government in particular that it is no use sanctioning the amount of Rs. 2,06,130 required in connection with the additional staff employed for Grow More Food work unless and until all-out efforts are made to implement the suggestions already mentioned by me.

Further we find a supplementary demand of Rs. 1,61,000 for the destruction of monkeys in the interest of Grow More Food Campaign. I do not want to discuss whether Government would be at a loss or gain. It is the intention of the Government to destroy monkeys in the interest of Grow More Food Campaign. Who knows what more steps besides the destruction of monkeys our Government is going to take in the furtherance of this Grow More Food scheme? Perhaps it may even go to the extent of killing people who are not wanted. But it is necessary for the Government to take into account the feelings and sentiments of the people. In view of this fact certain complaints have been made by the people. So far as this matter is concerned, these sentiments of the people which cannot undergo any change have got to be respected. If adequate arrangements are made to catch the monkeys and despatch them to such far off places where there is no likelihood of any damage being done by them, I think, people would

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not get any chance to make any complaint whatsoever. I would like to make this point clear that our Government has unnecessarily earned a bad name by destroying the monkeys. This is not all. Even my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal does not hesitate to openly criticize the action of the Government regarding the destruction of monkeys and wild cows in the public meetings.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : Are you criticizing Chaudhri Suraj Mal or the Government?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : A legislative measure to this effect has already been framed.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : The sentiments of people are thus used against the Congress and the Government with a view to grinding their own axe. All-out efforts are being made by such persons to convince the people that Government should not have taken any steps to destroy the monkeys. *(Interruptions)*

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sahib Ram that if he were to make a thorough search of monkeys in the fields with his gun and destroy them, then at the time of election, people would not be pleased to hear from him that he had destroyed so many monkeys in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign. Under the circumstances, it would be in the fitness of things if instead of destroying the monkeys, they are caught and sent to various jungles reserved for such animals. It is a matter of gratification to note that our Government has after all realized this fact that it is no use disrespecting the sentiments of the people. As a matter of fact our Government has done well in revising its policy so far as this matter is concerned and has announced its intention not to destroy the monkeys but would, instead be prepared to provide arms to those who would like to destroy them of their own accord.

So far as domestication of wild cows is concerned, Government has already started this work in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign and it has succeeded to some extent in this direction. But so far as my district is concerned, people are tired of these wild cows as they have been causing much damage to their standing crops. I hope our Government will not hesitate to keep these points in view at least in the interests of the Grow More Food Campaign. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to take into account the sentiments of the people and do something substantial in this direction.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North., General, Rural). *(Hindustani)*: Sir, I would like to bring a few points to the notice of my hon. Friends regarding

the wastage of public money by the Government. Whenever we request and urge upon the Government to reduce its expenditure in view of the present abnormal conditions, we are informed that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has already been set up to this effect. Now we find that a new Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been set up to look into this matter. But in spite of all this we do not find any reduction in our expenditure. I would request the hon. Members to censure and impeach the hon. Ministers for wasting public money and incurring unnecessary expenditure. I would go even to the extent of saying that the person or persons responsible for this wastage of public money should be sentenced to death. (*In'erruption*) The hon. Member Shri Dev Raj Sethi; need not worry about anything. He will get the Congress ticket to seek election even without interrupting me. Sir, I would like to point out that in the Supplementary Estimates we find an item in connection with the Servicing and Maintenance of the Aircrafts. The hon. Chief Minister has already had a bitter experience about these aeroplanes. It was for him to see whether it was of any use to purchase these aeroplanes. In fact these aeroplanes were bought without realizing the fact that our State was not in a position to bear such huge expenses. The main idea underlying this purchase seemed to be that the hon. Chief Minister felt that since the Ministers in the Centre tour in the aeroplanes there was no reason why he and his colleagues should not also follow the same practice. If the aeroplanes go out of order, a new engine is not available. The Government have wasted public money on the purchase of these aeroplanes. I fail to understand why a responsible Cabinet has exhibited 'squander mania' in dealing with the public finance. If these aeroplanes cannot serve any useful purpose, the Government should take the first opportunity to dispose them of. But whenever I resort to the constitutional method of recording my unqualified indignation at such actions of the Government, the hon. Chief Minister frets and fumes and charges me with raising urban rural question. He says that I am bringing forward a programme of the Unionist Party as if it was a party of traitors. The Government while knowing the immense poverty of the people should not ignore the need for economy. The Ministers should exercise great care and prudence in handling public finance so as to avoid wastage of public funds. The Government should not laugh away at the criticism of hon. Members thinking themselves as infallible. It is clear that if the Government show such an extravagance in its expenditure, it will have its repercussions on the provincial economy as a whole. I think the Government should feel ashamed of directing the finances of the State to such an unproductive channel when money is required for more urgent tasks that await the Government's attention. Economy in Governmental expenditure should, therefore, receive the first and foremost attention of the Ministers if they have the welfare of this new State at heart on account of its depleted financial resources. But I feel sorry to say that the Ministers instead of

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realizing their responsibility exhibit an attitude of unconcern and try to avoid the issue when such irregularities are pointed out to them. (*Voices* : But you also made use of the aeroplanes). No. doubt I had to use them as I was the Transport Minister.

Now I advert to the Grow-More-Food campaign launched by the Government. One Financial Commissioner has been entrusted with this task, additional staff has been detailed for this purpose though Agricultural Assistants who are fully qualified for this job could be asked to do this work in addition to their duties. These Agricultural Assistants could give expert advice to the agriculturists to step up food production and also the additional burden on the Government exchequer in connection with the increased staff could have been easily avoided. I fail to understand why the Chief Minister has not thought it fit to entrust this work to the Agricultural Assistants with a view to effecting saving to the Government exchequer. Similarly Tehsildars and Inspectors of Co-operative Societies can also be utilized for this purpose but Government has paid no attention when need of economy is fully recognised in the State. Our Government's plea is that it has received financial aid from the Central Government to execute the programme of Grow-More-Food campaign. It is certainly looking at things in a narrow way and not in a wider perspective to spend money lavishly that has been advanced by the Central Government. Moreover, I feel that the Government seem to be oblivious of the difficulties inherent in the process of increased production. It has appointed absolutely raw men who cannot go ahead with the programme of Grow-More-Food Campaign. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Minister in-charge whether this increased expenditure on the additional staff would not constitute a burden on the Government exchequer? Sir, if you look to other countries, you will find that Governments are wisely handling the services by getting maximum work out of them. But what we find here is unweildy staff in every department. Perhaps Government want to enhance its prestige by having so much staff at its beck and call. On the other hand we see that our Ministers always keep mum before the heads of departments and they have not the courage to raise their dissenting voice against them. I really agreed with the remark of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt once published in the newspaper saying that our Ministers could not control the heads of departments but were in fact controlled by them. They cannot muster courage to disagree with the proposal made by the heads of departments and lend their signatures to it invariably. When such a plain truth is brought home to the mind of hon. Chief Minister, he instead of confessing his weakness loses his temper and tries to brow-beat the hon. Member.

Now I would take another item involving wastage of public funds and

that is of keeping three Financial Commissioners in this poor State. With the Financial Commissioners [are attached Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries. The appointment of three Financial Commissioners is an acknowledgement of the fact that Government do not exercise strict economy in governmental expenditure in its administrative sphere. I think it is not so difficult for one Financial Commissioner to cope with all the work now being done by three Financial Commissioners. But such fat-salaried persons are being kept only to enhance the prestige of Punjab Government. Our Government is not anxious to reduce the number of Financial Commissioners but want to maintain the same number as it used to be in the united Punjab. With all this, the hon. Chief Minister has said that he has constituted a new Resources and Retrenchment Committee which would tap all sources of income for the State.

If the hon. Chief Minister tours the province along with the Financial Commissioners, he would soon come to realize that two of them are enough to cope with the work, and that the third post is unnecessary. An attempt to see the real state of affairs is urgently called for. The hon. Chief Minister should not form his estimate from the number of cases that go to each one of them. If ours is a poor province, its sources of income being limited why are so many posts of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries being maintained? In fact, Sir, any careful reader of the Budget will not fail to note that a very large portion of the Government revenues goes to the pockets of these officers. Every now and then, they are given promotions, lifts and special allowances. Why all this joke with the people? How long will you continue to deceive them? The office of Ministership is after all not a 'gaddi' which cannot be taken away from the incumbent. This revelry will not last long. People will soon realize the extravagant manner in which the Government money is being squandered and will not hesitate to throw out those responsible for it. The real power in a democratic system, rests with them. Just look at them, Sir, their faces are beaming with smiles, as though I have been praising them. When it comes to replying they will indulge in irrelevant talk but when there is an occasion to scrutinize a proposal, they will say ditto to what the heads of departments suggest.

Minister for Public Works : No Minister would ask the head of the department to write note on his behalf and confine himself to mere signing work, as my hon. Friend used to do in his time. (*Laughter*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I think my Friend who has again become a Minister after having been driven from pillar to post for one year, should

[Chaudhri Lahri Singh]

not feel impatient. He will have enough time to flatter the Chief Minister. *(Interruption)* Sir, what I mean to stress is that the hon. Ministers should before anything else take good care of the public money that has been entrusted to their custody and utilize it for the good of the poor people who have contributed to it.

Minister for Public Works : On a point of order, Sir. May I know if it was as a gesture of sympathy to the poor, that the Cabinet of which the hon. Member was a member, had decided to increase the rate of 'abiana' ?

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : On a point of order, Sir. May I know if two members can be on their legs, speaking simultaneously specially when one of them is a Minister ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member had given way.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Everything is excusable, so far as Captain Ranjit Singh's actions are concerned. If it were in his power, he would even deprive us of the membership of this Assembly. He is there to flatter Dr. Sahib and to say ditto to what he says and sign what he asks him to sign. *(Laughter)*

Sir, should we hope that the hon. Minister will devote a little time to the study of the Rules of Procedure so that he may be able to understand what a point of order is, by the time of the next session ? *(Laughter)* Sir, I am just going to finish my speech. In the end I would request the Government to give thought and reflection to my suggestions with a calm mind even though they might not have liked my way of making them. All talk of retrenchment will be sheer mockery, so long as the Government continues to squander money on unnecessary items.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) *(Hindi)* : Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this demand.....*(Interruption)* Sir, I am sorry, these Ministers do not know manners. I request you as the custodian of the prestige of this House to see that they do not waste the time of the House like that.

I was going to say that the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is not any one's personal concern nor is it being carried on for the benefit of any individuals. It is a matter of national importance and a question of life and death for the nation. And so the responsibility for its furtherance does not rest on any particular party or group. It is the declared policy of the Government that it would gladly welcome help and co-operation of all sections of the population in its efforts to make the country self-sufficient

in the matter of food. Pandit Shri Ram has again and again objected to the composition and personnel of the District Committees that have been constituted in connection with the 'Grow More Food campaign'. So far as my knowledge goes, the Deputy Commissioners have appointed the right type of persons on these Committees—persons who have knowledge of all matters connected with agriculture and whose experience will stand the Government in good stead in the furtherance of 'Grow More Food' campaign. Pandit ji perhaps seems to be of the view that the interests of the country would have been better served, if urban people, having not the least knowledge of agricultural matters had been appointed as members of these Committees. So far as I can see, the Government and its District officers have followed a very wise and far-sighted policy inasmuch as they have thought it fit to appoint rural people having actual experience of agriculture on these Committees, irrespective of their political views and party affiliations. (*Cheers*).

Sir, isn't it a fact that it is the people from rural areas who make the greatest contribution for the good of the country, whether by enlisting in the armed forces, the Police, or by paying taxes? If the Government had, out of fear of criticism of persons like Panditji, appointed only Congressmen on these committees, I am afraid it would have been a great blunder on its part. (*Cheers*). The Government has shown great far-sightedness in ignoring such considerations in the matter of increasing food production. I admit a few mistakes might have been committed here and there but I refuse to agree with those who think that the Government is not making earnest efforts for furthering the 'Grow More Food Campaign' (*Hear, hear*). I am not one of those who will criticize the Government in season and out of season. Praise and commendation must not be grudged where they are well-deserved. We should not criticize the Government simply because in doing a good thing, it follows a method about which we hold different views or because in matters of detail it acts in a manner which is not in accordance with our personal inclinations and predilections. If Panditji thinks that should he be made the sole incharge of the administration of Rohtak District, things would very much improve. I would request the Government to give him a chance. (*Laughter*)

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of personal explanation. Sir. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal was entirely wrong when he said that I wanted any preference for the Congressmen (topiwalas) in this connection. I only desire that the Government should entrust this work to such persons who respect the people and are capable of rendering some useful service. I may also tell my hon. Friend that he insults an M. L. A. when he offers him a post of a Deputy Commissioner or a Divisional Commissioner.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, so many things have been said on this demand but first of all I wish

[Chief Minister]

to invite the attention of the House to a very interesting speech made by an hon. Friend with whom I have had the privilege of working not only in this House but in the Cabinet as well. He was pleased to say that once I had the good fortune of travelling in an aeroplane with Sardar Baldev Singh and this tempted me to purchase aeroplanes for the State. I may be excused if I go a bit into the history of these aeroplanes to explain my point. When these aeroplanes were purchased, my hon. Friend was the Minister in charge of Transport. After using these aeroplanes for sometime we thought of disposing them of when they were in good condition. But my hon. Friend advised that they should be retained and not sold.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is quite wrong.

Chief Minister : I take full responsibility for what I say. If I am not letting out a secret, I may say that I am giving this information with the permission of the ex-Premier who was at the head of the Government at that time.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I can challenge that it is a wrong statement.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** There can be no challenges in the House. There must be some limit. If there are challenges, there might be duels also.

Chief Minister : Sir, I do not know why my hon. Friend is feeling agitated. He used to blame me for that. [*Some hon. Members:* Perhaps it is due to the fact that a heater is very near him.]

No, it is not due to the heater. The heater has been near him even when he was making his speech. It is definitely due to something else.

Sir, the demand before the House is for a sum of Rs. 32,550 and it has to an extent been necessitated by the advice of my hon. Friend for not selling the aeroplanes when we wanted to sell them. But now their disposal is not possible unless they are properly repaired. Repairs naturally involve expenditure and a sum of Rs. 4,000 has been spent on purchasing hangers from the Disposals Department for the two planes lying at Jullundur. The purchase of hangers was a necessity as when the planes are not in use they are likely to lose their shape unless and until they are kept on hangers. Some expenditure was also necessary for insurance and certificate of airworthiness because without insurance and the certificate we cannot sell the planes. Here I may tell the hon. Members that the planes had been given to the Northern India Flying Club so that they could use them when they were not wanted by us. This Club came into being after partition for the purpose of training people in air-craft and the Government gave it a grant at its inception by way of a subsidy.

Sir, it is wrong for anybody to say that we purchased the 'planes for the sake of mere fun. In 1947, we had to go to Delhi almost every week. We had to go in the morning and return in the evening the same day. Many times we utilised the Governor General's 'plane but this arrangement was not always possible and like other States we also felt the necessity of purchasing our own aeroplanes. Those were abnormal days. But when our work returned to normal we thought of selling them off and this could not be done owing to the advice of my hon. colleague.

Sir, we have come before the House with Supplementary Demands. This means that the various provisions which were made for the various departments in the Budget for 1949-50 have not proved adequate and we had to spend a little more. The House is aware that the Budget had to be operated upon by one team for a part of the year and by another team for the remainder.

Sir, the travelling allowance of the Parliamentary Secretaries has come in for some criticism. I am to say that ever since October, when I took charge of the Government, there has been only one Parliamentary Secretary and so far he has submitted no bill. The travelling allowance which has been so much criticized relates to Parliamentary Secretaries who existed before October, i.e., for the time when I was not at the helm of affairs.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir. Is the Chief Minister in order in saying that? The responsibility of the Government cannot be divided. Either the policy of the Government can be defended or it should be admitted that it is wrong.

Chief Minister : Sir, I never said that I am not prepared to shoulder the responsibility for the time when my hon. Friend was the Premier. I was the Finance Minister then and am even now. I am certainly defending the expenditure which was incurred before October. I only wanted to explain as to why we have come up with Supplementary Demands. However, Sir, I am greatly surprised to find that an hon. Colleague who has worked with me in the Cabinet has had the courage of misrepresenting things which were done at his own instance.

Then, Sir, objection was raised to the demand of Rs. 35,350 for travelling allowance of Members. Additional amount was required for this purpose because for some time this Assembly has been meeting for four days in a week. As Wednesday used to be an off-day the hon. Members left for their respective places on Tuesday afternoon and returned on Thursday. This involved more expenditure on their travelling allowance. The rule has now been altered and we have again started holding five meetings in a week. Moreover, meetings of some Select Committees had to be held and its members had to be paid travelling allowance for attending those

[Chief Minister]

meetings. It has been suggested that railway-passes should be issued to the Members. In this connection, I beg to submit that it would cause no saving. Under the Rules, the Members are entitled to travel in first class and the railway passes of that class will have to be supplied to them. The railway authorities do not issue these passes free of cost. They charge full price for these. Moreover, travelling allowance is not intended to be a source of income. Several other things said in connection with it had no bearing on the demand under discussion.

Then, Sir, it has been complained, that the Government was increasing the number of Heads of Departments. It was said that when we already had two Financial Commissioners, there was no necessity of appointing an Additional Financial Commissioner. Only a short time back, the Government of India appointed a Food Commissioner in the Ministry of Food. All the State Governments were also asked to appoint officers for carrying on work in connection with production of more food. At first we asked one of our Financial Commissioners to carry on this work but after sometime he found it difficult to cope with additional duties. It was due to the fact that the Food Commissioner had to remain on tour for about two or three weeks in a month. Work in connection with the 'Grow More Food' scheme is not carried on by the Agriculture Department alone. The Veterinary Department, Irrigation Department, Co-operative Department, Statistical Department and several other Departments are engaged in this work. It was, therefore, necessary to have one officer at the head of all those who are connected with this work. Two of the senior-most officers connected with the General Administration of the State were working as Financial Commissioners. One was in-charge of the Revenue Department and the other of Relief and Rehabilitation. Work in connection with the production of food had therefore to be entrusted to the next senior-most officer who has been made in-charge of the Development Department. As he has to take work from Secretaries to the Government, he has been given the rank of a Financial Commissioner. It is for these reasons that the Government had to appoint an Additional Financial Commissioner. Work connected with 'Grow More Food' Campaign involves great responsibility. In addition to one crore or one and a quarter crores which had to be given in the form of loans, about seventy or seventy five lakhs of rupees were to be spent as subsidies. It was said that the Agriculture Department or the Deputy Commissioners should have been asked to do this work. I beg to submit that the Deputy Commissioners and all the other connected departments have to do this work but some one is needed to co-ordinate their work and to see that it is properly carried on in all the districts. Branches of this department have been opened not only in all the districts but in every village also. Everybody has to contribute his share in the execution of this task. So long as every non-official does not help in

this work, it cannot be successfully accomplished. I am glad to say that we have achieved considerable success in our 'Grow More Food' programme and the amount of money spent on it has yielded useful results.

Then, Sir, it was said that keeping the sentiments of the people in view the Government should not have started the destruction of monkeys. No doubt we had to spend one lakh and sixty thousand rupees on their destruction but by so doing about fifty or sixty thousand tons of food-grains which they used to destroy were saved. Sentiments of the public should be respected but is it not more desirable that as much of food-grains should be saved as possible? When the Government found that this task has been accomplished to a considerable extent, it was stopped but if the monkeys destroyed crops in a field, its owner was authorised to kill them. The Government would grant him some subsidy or reward for doing so. It was said that some day the Government might decide to kill men on the ground that they damaged foodgrains. This argument has no force. For whose benefit had the whole work been undertaken, if even human-beings were to be killed? If someone damages foodgrains we shall request him not to do so in the interest of the country. There is no question of factious feeling in this kind of work. It is not being done for the benefit of any party or class of persons. The lives of all the people are affected by this problem. Attempt was made to kill the jackals, rats and other animals also, who destroyed food-crops.

Besides this, we have taken in hand the work of domestication of wild cows. We have, no doubt, spent some money on this work; but with the exception of Kangra district, wild cows going about in jungles in the State have been domesticated and put to use. So far we have domesticated about 500 cows. There were two types of stray cows. The first kind of such stray cows are those which are turned out of doors on their getting old. With the migration of Muslims from the State, the number of such stray cows increased. The question of such stray cattle is engaging our attention. We are trying to open a sort of camp in a jungle for such cattle so that they may be of some use also. Some bulls have also been domesticated.

In this way, we have done everything conceivable for the promotion of the Grow-More-Food campaign.

It has been said that we take the help of the Government of India in everything that we do and we work under their shadow. This is absolutely incorrect. The position is that the Government of India makes schemes for the country as a whole. That is why they call meetings of the hon. Ministers of almost all departments of all States and discuss various schemes. These consultations will become all the more frequent under the new Constitution.

[Chief Minister.]

Sometime back there was scarcity of food grains in the Rajasthan Union. The Government of India demanded from us 15 thousand tons of wheat which they promised to return in October next. We have given that quantity of food grains to the Rajasthan Union, in view of the general requirements of the country. So in this way, we have to act according to certain all India plans.

We get loan as well as subsidy from the Government of India for the Grow-More-Food scheme. In the case of loans, the Government of India want to see our schemes for the purpose of growing more food. They naturally want that those schemes should ensure maximum production of food. They have refused to give any loan to some other States for this purpose ; yet they want that there should be more production of food. But as regards Punjab, they know that we have no money ; that is why they have given us loan. Besides this, according to rules, the amount equal to the subsidy received from the Government of India for post-war development schemes, has to be contributed by the State itself. The Government of India, therefore, allowed us to use $\frac{1}{4}$ of the food bonus that we earned for food procurement, on food storage and $\frac{2}{3}$ of bonus on the Grow-More-Food scheme.

It has been said that we are wasting public money and we do nothing for the benefit of the agriculturist who pays land revenue and other taxes out of his earnings of hard toil. I am really surprised to listen to such criticism. The supplementary estimates are prepared in a certain way. The head of a department goes to the Minister with the suggestion that for a particular item more funds are required on account of some emergency or other circumstances. The proposal then goes to the Chief Secretary who in turn forwards it to the Finance Department which finally gives the sanction. To say that the Chief Minister controls only Ministers and not his subordinates is far from truth. It might be the experience of the hon. Member himself who might be giving his sanction to any proposal put up by the Secretary of his Department. I may tell him that no expenditure is now sanctioned unless we are convinced of its desirability. The man who is financially hard put, has to see that no money is unnecessarily spent and he tries to save from every source. Our country is passing through an economic crisis. It is not possible that we should waste money and thus ruin our country. I would like to submit that we are as cautious in the spending of public money as possible. And then the House has appointed a Committee of Estimates which will examine all our expenditure. In future even Supplementary Estimates would not be easily brought up. The time when Ministers like my hon. Friend sanctioned every proposal put up by head of the department, is gone. Now no expenditure is sanctioned about which we are not fully satisfied. With these words, I submit that the demand be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,42,560/- be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Chief Minister : Sir, I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Administration of Justice.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Administration of Justice.

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have no objection against this demand for grant of Rs. 84,400 in respect of Administration of Justice. What I have to say is that justice is not administered in the manner it should be. In the district courts cases remain pending for long periods without any early hearing. The dates for the hearing of cases are fixed after three or four months.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member cannot discuss the general policy at this stage.

Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Administration of Justice.

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Chief Minister : Sir, I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,77,490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,77,490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

Shrimati Sita Devi : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore city, General, women, urban, *(Hindi)*) : Sir, I am going to say a few words on the demand for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,77,490 in respect of Medical and Public Health. In the General Budget Estimates the amount sanctioned was Rs. 84,21,800. I am not going to oppose this demand because this department is an important department and if the Government wishes to have money for it we are prepared to sanction. There are two or three such departments on which more expenditure should be made but our Government is spending less on them.

The first thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is that the amount of Rs. 3710 which is demanded in respect of the travelling allowance of Members of Health Council is not sufficient for the purpose. More amount should be spent in this respect.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,77,490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

The motion was carried.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, with your permission, may I make a suggestion? In order to save time would it not be better that the hon. Speaker should ascertain before hand if there is a demand on which division is to be called by any Member of the House. If no division is to be claimed then the hon. Speaker should put all the demands together.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think it would be better if I put each Demand separately. Before I proceed I would like to know the reason, from the hon. the Chief Minister as to why there is a departure from the usual procedure in printing Demand No. 21? On page 107 of the Supplementary Estimates it would be found that the names of non-official members of the Abiana Committee are given with the amounts of travelling and daily allowance received by them separately. The procedure is that names of persons receiving T. A. etc., are not published in the Budget and Supplementary Estimates but in this case there is a departure from the ordinary procedure.

Even in answers to questions Government does not disclose the names of the officers receiving T. A. I want to know the reason why the names of the members of the Abiana Committee have been printed ?

Chief Minister : Sir, this is a mistake and I am sorry for this oversight.

The following Demands were then put from the Chair and carried :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,310 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Veterinary.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,77,490 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Industries.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,56,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Charges on Buildings and Roads—Establishments.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,790 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Famine.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,64,750 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,84,090 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Stationery and Printing.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 86,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Outlay on Forests.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 58,29,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,50,410 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.

[Mr. Speaker.]

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 55,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Charges on Buildings and Roads Establishment.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,48,650 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,06,210 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Land Revenue.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Police.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Education.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Agriculture.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Co-operation.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Civil Works.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Miscellaneous.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Construction of Irrigation Works.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes outside the Revenue Account.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Capital account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Advances not bearing Interest—Advances Repayable.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950 in respect of Loans and Advances bearing Interest—Loans and Advances by Provincial Government.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Thursday, 30th March 1950.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha is a legislative body consisting of members elected from various constituencies in the Punjab. It is responsible for passing laws and resolutions on behalf of the people of the Punjab. The members of the Sabha are elected for a term of five years. The Sabha is divided into two houses, the Punjab Legislative Assembly and the Punjab Legislative Council. The Assembly is the lower house and the Council is the upper house. The Sabha meets in the Punjab Legislative Assembly Building in Chandigarh. The Sabha is the highest authority in the Punjab after the Punjab Legislative Assembly. It has the power to pass laws and resolutions on behalf of the people of the Punjab. The Sabha is also responsible for supervising the executive branch of the government. The Sabha is a very important institution in the Punjab. It is the voice of the people and it is responsible for making decisions on behalf of the people. The Sabha is a very powerful institution and it has the power to make laws and resolutions that affect the lives of the people of the Punjab. The Sabha is a very important institution in the Punjab and it is the voice of the people. It is responsible for making decisions on behalf of the people and it has the power to make laws and resolutions that affect the lives of the people of the Punjab.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

30th March 1950

Vol. I—No. 18

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 30th March 1950.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR.

Chief Minister : I move that only short notice questions be taken up and the question hour be dispensed with.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** In view of the heavy agenda today I have decided to dispense with the question hour.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I would like to know whether it is for the House or the hon. Speaker to decide that the question hour be suspended ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would refer the hon. Member to Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the rules of business are passed or approved by the House, or they are framed by the hon. Speaker himself or by the Government ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The Constitution of India empowers the Speaker of a State Legislature to frame the rules, under clause (2) of Article 208, for regulating the procedure and the conduct of business in the Assembly. Until the House makes its own rules these rules will remain in force but the hon. Member will find that the rights of hon. Members have not in any way been curtailed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I do not challenge your right to dispense with the question hour. But my submission is that the question hour offers an opportunity for the hon. Members to get important information from the Government and to bring certain grievances of the public to the notice of the hon. Ministers. Therefore, I feel that it would be very unfair if the House is deprived of this valuable right.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not the first time during this session that the

[Mr. Speaker]

question hour is being dispensed with. Previously two or three times during the discussion of the Budget we waived this rule and similar is the case today. The House has a very heavy agenda to go through and I feel that starred questions may not be asked today. I am allowing short notice questions to be answered.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : True, Sir, during the Budget discussion we have dispensed with the question hour but that was because the number of days for passing the Budget is fixed. The Budget has to be passed during the days fixed by the Governor and I can well understand if a motion of this kind is brought then. But now there is no such urgency before the House which calls for dispensing with the question hour. This House should create healthy conventions and should not allow the Government to treat it so lightly in the matter of foregoing an important right of asking questions. I agree that the agenda before the House is heavy but that does not mean that the question hour be taken away.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If the hon. Member agrees that we have a heavy agenda then he should not persist in his opposition. There are many important things to be considered by the House and I think it would be proper if the right of asking questions is surrendered for a day. We have reached the printed list of questions for the 16th March and I don't think it would make much difference if questions are postponed for today.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Sir, with your permission, may I know what calamity has overtaken the Government that the question hour is being dispensed with ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No more discussion on this point now. Let the House proceed with the asking of short notice questions.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RE-OPENING OF KASIM KHERA MINOR DISTRIBUTARY

***2022. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the revised proposals for the re-opening of the Kasim Khera Minor Distributary, beyond village Bahauddin into Saughar and Daberi in the Hissar Division have been accepted by the Government, if not, the stage at which the matter stands at present ;
- (b) whether water would be available by the time of the next sowing, if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargva : (a) The revised proposal for remodelling of Kasim Khera Minor as received from the Superintending Engineer for extending irrigation to Saughar and Daberi villages has not yet been approved by the Government. The proposals are under scrutiny and some further details have been called for from the Superintending Engineer.

(b) No, as the time available before the next sowings is too short to complete the scheme.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the papers are still with the Chief Engineer or the same have been received by the hon. Chief Minister ?

Chief Minister : They are still with the Chief Engineer.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when will these papers come to the Chief Minister to enable him to take action in the matter ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that the papers are with the Chief Engineer. They will be sent to me after he has scrutinized them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Chief Minister aware that the Superintending Engineer has already sent up recommendations regarding the matter ?

Chief Minister : The matter will be looked into when the detailed information is received.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

***2055 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any cases in Amritsar District have been brought to the notice of the Government where ordinary rules of procedure regarding the allotment of lands under the quasi permanent scheme have not been observed and lands have been allotted to persons under the orders of the Government as special cases who could not have got them under the ordinary rules, if so, the number of such cases ;

(b) the reasons for treating these cases as special cases ;

(c) the list of all such cases with the following particulars ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(i) the names of the persons together with their full addresses whose cases were considered as special cases together with the locality of allotment in each case ;

(ii) the area allotted in each case ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, in five cases special sanction for allotment in Amritsar district was given by Government.

(b) In one case a widow has been settled with a relation on her request. In another three temporary allottees who were not otherwise eligible, have been allowed to join a relation with whom they had joint khata in Montgomery district. The fifth, a minor, whose widowed mother held temporary allotment in tehsil Ajnala, has been allowed to continue. This allottee according to "adjustment allocation" has become otherwise eligible for continuance in Ajnala Tehsil.

(c) Statement "A" giving the necessary particulars is placed on the table.

STATEMENT A

List showing the names of persons who have been allotted land in Amritsar District under special orders of Government.

| Sr. No. | Name of persons with father's name. | Address of Pakistan. | Village of allotment | Area. |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Ajit Singh s/o Bahadur Singh,) | 349/F.B. Tehsil Pakpattan. & | Bharowal Tehsil | 24-7-3/8 S.A. |
| 2. | Ujagar Singh s/o Sunder Singh,) | Wazirabad Teh. Gujranwala. | Tarn taran. | 21-7½ " |
| 3. | Man Singh s/o Ujagar Singh.) | | | 11-1½ " |
| 4. | Karamdip Singh (minor) s/o Harcharan Singh through his mother Sh. Rajmohinder Kaur (overflow of Sialkot is being settled in Teh. Ajnala.) | 185/R.B. Lyallpur and Sialkot. | Mananwala Teh. Ajnala | 41-15½ " |
| 5. | Mst. Sant Kaur widow of Udham Singh. | Handal Teh. Chunan Distt. Lahore | Daudpura Tehsil Patti. | 8-9½ " |

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Mst. Santo has been allotted land near her collaterals ?

Minister : This question does not arise out of the main question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether it is not the responsibility of the Government to see that widows are allotted lands near their collaterals ?

Minister : Ordinarily Government makes an endeavour that issueless widows should be allotted lands near their collaterals who have to succeed her after her death.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If this particular widow is issueless, will she be allotted land near her collaterals ?

Minister : In that case Government will find out her collaterals and allot her land near them.

Sardar Partap Singh : May I know whether it is not the intention of the Government to go against the rules which provide that a widow shall receive her land near her parents ?

Minister : It all depends upon the individual cases. If a widow has a son, then she is allotted land according to her desire. But in the case of an issueless widow, Government consider every case carefully and more often than not land is allotted to her near her collaterals.

Sardar Partap Singh : May I know whether at the time of allotment, Government consider this point also that if an issueless widow is allotted land near her collaterals, she might be murdered by them ?

Minister : This point is fully kept in view at the time of allotment of land to issueless widows.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether that principle is being observed by the Advisory Board at the time of considering the applications of widows, namely, that land will be allotted to them at a place of their choice ?

Minister : The Advisory Board is acting upon the same principles which were laid down when my hon. Sister was a Member of the Board.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know the number of applications so far disposed of by the Advisory Board regarding the allotment of land to the widows near their parents or somewhere else ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government are prepared to extend the same concession to the minors if they put in applications, as have been granted to the issueless widows ?

Minister : This concession cannot be granted to every body. Now that the allotment of lands is almost complete, Government will consider the appeals from those who complain that they have not been fairly treated.

ILL TREATMENT IN HOSPITAL.

***2070. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he has received any representation from Mr. Guran Ditta Ram handed over to him personally on 8-3-50, stating therein that his wife was maltreated in the Civil Hospital, Jullundur and she was turned out of the Hospital during her serious illness;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, but on enquiry it has transpired that the allegations made therein were not correct.

(b) Does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether representation of Mr. Guran Ditta Ram has been received by the hon. Minister ?

Minister : Yes, it did reach me.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister please tell us whether on receipt of this representation he made enquiries from the Civil Surgeon concerned ? If so, whether his reply is based on that enquiry ?

Minister : Yes I did make enquiries from the Civil Surgeon. He wrote that this lady was suffering from vomiting at the time of admission into the hospital. She was treated for that malady. After that the lady doctor in charge reported that that woman had been cured of her trouble, but the woman was of the opinion that she had not been fully cured and her husband suggested that she be X-rayed. The doctor in charge did not agree to this view with the result that the husband of that woman got angry with the Civil Surgeon and took away his wife despite the fact that the Civil Surgeon asked him to bring her again after some time for examination.

Shrimati Sita Devi : My question is whether the enquiry of the hon. Minister showed that the woman was turned out of the hospital during her illness ?

Minister : The Civil Surgeon writes in his report that the woman went away of her own accord and that she was not turned out.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Minister aware that I met the Civil Surgeon. He admitted that the lady doctor concerned often ill-treated the patients and she might have turned out that woman and that he would enquire into the matter ?

Minister : The report of the Civil Surgeon is silent about the meeting of the hon. Lady Member with him. It does not indicate that the Lady Doctor concerned had a bad reputation. He wrote that ordinarily it was the whim of the patients that they be X-rayed although the doctor did not consider it necessary. Similar was the case with this woman. When her request for X-ray was not granted, she was displeased with the Civil Surgeon.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the hon. Minister who himself is a doctor is satisfied with the report of the Civil Surgeon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was this matter brought to the notice of the Civil Surgeon before ?

Minister : I cannot say whether he had any knowledge about it. I got the report from him. However I may assure the hon. Member that when I go to Jullundur, I shall make the necessary enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the complaint was against the Civil Surgeon and his department ? Is it also not a fact that the Civil Surgeon against whom complaint was made was asked to submit his report and that he reported that the allegations made were not correct ?

Minister : The complaint was not against the Civil Surgeon but against the lady doctor.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was this matter brought to the notice of the Civil Surgeon at that time ? Is it a fact that the Civil Surgeon was of the opinion that the allegations were not correct ?

Minister : It is a fact that the Civil Surgeon submitted the report to the effect that the allegations were not correct.

Sardar Partap Singh : Sir, I rise on a point of order. The matter to which this question relates took place long ago. The representation is stated to have been handed over to the hon. Minister as far back as 8-3-1950, so there is no urgency about the case. My submission is that this information could have been asked through an ordinary starred question and a short notice question should not have been tabled for this.

Mr. Speaker : I am very glad that the hon. Member has drawn my attention to this on the floor of the House. I myself feel that the practice is growing that un-important questions are given notice of as short notice

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questions. I naturally refer these to hon. Ministers concerned for their consent and if they agree the questions are put on the notice paper. The hon. Members send their questions as short notice questions simply because they feel that the question will not come up if it is sent as an ordinary question. I think that this practice should be discouraged.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, I feel that the hon. Ministers give their consent to unimportant questions being treated as short notice questions and the questions which are really of some importance are not agreed to be brought at short notice.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I agree with the hon. Member and realize that certain questions for which there is no urgency are accepted as short notice questions.

Chief Minister : The hon. Members bring up such unimportant matters through questions and they want these questions to be answered at short notice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister-in-charge has stated that the patient in question left the hospital of her own accord. May I know if she left the hospital on foot or was carried home on a stretcher?

Minister : I cannot say that. However her husband might have been with her and he might have engaged a tonga to carry her home.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the Civil Surgeon has already received complaints against this very lady doctor?

Minister : Honestly speaking, I have no knowledge about it.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST SHRI NAND SINGH, HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENT CENTRAL COLLEGE, JULLUNDUR.

*2069. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaints containing charges of corruption, indiscipline and inefficiency have been received against Shri Nand Singh, Hostel Superintendent, Central Training College, Jullundur, if so, when ;
- (b) the action, if any, taken by the Government on these complaints ; if not, why not ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Yes. A copy of the complaint submitted to the Principal was received a few days ago.

- (b) The report of the Principal on the points raised is expected. Whatever action is considered necessary will be taken on the receipt of this report.

Shri Virendra : Was any complaint received by the Principal ?

Minister : I require notice.

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that the Principal has not received any complaint for the last one and a half months ?

Minister : Thanks for the information.

Shri Virendra : Has the Principal been asked to send his report in connection with this complaint ?

Minister : I have already stated in my reply that the report of the Principal on the points raised is expected.

Shri Virendra : Has the hon. Minister issued instructions to the Principal that the report should be submitted within some stipulated time ?

Minister : When instructions are issued to the officers to submit their reports, they do so without any delay.

Shri Virendra : Has the Principal been asked to submit his report ?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Virendra : When ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROMOTIONS IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

470. Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in certain circles of the Irrigation Department, very junior Sub Divisional Clerks are being promoted as Accounts Clerks while in other Circles very senior men are still working as Sub Divisional Clerks ;
- (b) if reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The Sub Divisional Clerks are borne on circle cadre and as such they are entitled to promotion in their own circles.

[Chief Minister.]

(b) Does not arise.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

471. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Sarafan Committee, Jullundur City made a complaint to the Director concerned stating that the weights tested and stamped by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, Jullundur were heavier than the standard weights ;

(b) if answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what action has been or is proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Yes ;

(b) The matter is under investigation.

STAMPING OF MEASURES OF WEIGHT.

472. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) wheather it is a fact that the 'halwais' are required by the Government to purchase the stamped measures of weight of one seer, half seer, quarter seer and 1/8 seer from a particular contractor ; if so, the prices fixed by Government for the aforesaid measures ;

(b) the cost of the above mentioned measures of weight together with that of the metal used therein ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the 'halwais' are given the facilities of getting their own measures prepared ; but that they are required to get them stamped : if so, the charges for stamping them ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) 'Halwais' like other dealers in liquids, sold by measures, are required to maintain only standard and stamped measures. No particular contractor has been appointed by Government, but the attached list¹ is of eleven manufacturers of registered licensees for the manufacture and sale thereof.

1. Kept in the Library.

No control price has been fixed by the Government. But a verification fee of As. -/7/- for one seer measures and As. -/2/- for the rest of each measure is prescribed under the Punjab Weights and Measures Rules, 1943.

- (b) The cost of the four measures in question both in this province as well as in Bombay is detailed in the enclosed Annexure 'A' 1.
- (c) No particular facility for the manufacture of these measures is afforded to the halwais who are required to maintain standard measures only as prescribed under the Punjab Weights and Measures Act and the Rules made thereunder. Halwais like the rest of traders can use only verified and stamped measures etc. for trade purposes. Verification fee for these measures is prescribed in the aforesaid Rules and for the four measures in question is detailed in (a) above.

STAMPED YARD STICKS.

473. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agency has been set up in the State for providing the stamped yard sticks to the cloth dealers ; if so, the price fixed by the Government for a yard stick, if so, the basis on which this agency has been set up.

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

First Part—There is no Government agency for the supply of stamped yard measures. Eleven private concerns detailed below are registered as manufactures in accordance with the conditions prescribed under the Punjab Weights and Measures Act.

List of Government Registered Manufactures of Yard Measures.

1. M/s Hargolal & Sons, Ambala Cantt.
2. M/s Oriental Science Apparatus Works, Ambala Cantt.
3. M/s Rubby Hurry & Co., Amritsar.
4. M/s R. S. Khanna and Sons, Ambala Cantt.
5. M/s Saraswati Iron Works, Ambala City.
6. M/s Nath Commercial Co., Ambala City.
7. M/s Indian Metal Industries, Ambala Cantt.
8. M/s Rai Bros., Hoshiarpur.
9. M/s Agricultural Industries Registered, Batala.

[Minister for Development]

10. M/s Eleka Industries, Jullundur.

11. M/s Punjab Industries Co., Ambala Cantt.

Second Part—The price of the stamped yard is not controlled. A verification fee of annas seven per yard measure is charged by the Government.

Third Part—The question does not arise.

**ALLOWANCE TO THE FAMILY OF SARDAR AMAR SINGH DETENU
IN YOL CAMP.**

474. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Sardar Amar Singh of Alawalpur has been detained in the Yol Camp Jail ;
- (b) whether any family allowance was granted to his mother ; if so, when and how much ;
- (c) the total amount of the allowance paid to his mother so far ;
- (d) whether the mother of the above mentioned detenu is receiving the aforesaid allowance regularly ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes ; Rs. 15/- from 27-8-49 enhanced to Rs 25/- p. m. from 1-10-1949.

(c) Rs. 142/7/-.

(d) Yes.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the recent decision and its implementation by the Government to supply groundnut oil cake flour mixed with wheat flour to the consumers in rationed areas of the State and thereby ruin their already poor health.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** May I know from the hon. Member when the order to this effect was passed ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I had been to Ambala Cantt. on the 25th instant. The District Organizer of Civil Supplies and Rationing had convened a meeting of the Advisory Committee. I came to know that ground-nut oil cake flour mixed with wheat flour was going to be supplied to people from 1st April 1950. I have got the copy of the notice with me. 26th March was a holiday and the Appropriation Bill was brought before the House on 27th March ; again 28th March was a holiday. Under the circumstances, today is the first opportunity which I am availing of to bring this matter before the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I want to know the date of the order which is to be discussed if the motion for adjournment is admitted ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I have also given notice of a similar adjournment motion.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes, you will also get a chance to speak after the motion has been admitted.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I want to say something about the urgency of the matter.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Let me first enquire the date of the order which is to be discussed.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I have a number of proofs to show that such a decision has been taken at Ambala in the meeting of the District Organisers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether any order has been passed and if so on what date ?

Minister for Development : No order has been passed yet.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know from the hon. Minister if ground-nut oil cake flour is being mixed from the 1st of April ?

Minister : No.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** In view of the statement of the hon. Minister that no order has been passed to mix ground-nut oil cake flour with wheat flour, I rule the adjournment motion out of order.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know if the Government is prepared to give an assurance that it is not taking such a step ; if not, is it not then a matter of urgent public importance ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That question may be asked separately on some other occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. My honourable Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma during the course of his speech which he delivered yesterday made some remarks about me thereby creating some misunderstanding. But I may make my position clear that I was not returned on Congress ticket. Even though I got help from the Congress in my election, that help cannot amount to Congress ticket. Under these circumstances, I think there was no obligation for me to resign my seat in the House. It was, therefore, not proper for my honourable Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to have taunted me by quoting the example of Pandit Mohan Lal Dutt.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave that aside.

HOURS OF SITTING.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I move —

That the Assembly shall adjourn today at 4.30 p. m. instead of 6.30 p. m.

Sir, as we have a number of important legislative measures on the agenda which is rather heavy, I propose that we should sit for two hours more, and I hope the House will agree to my proposal.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Assembly shall adjourn today at 8.30 p. m. instead of 6.30 p. m.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion made by the hon. Chief Minister that the House should rise at 8-30 P.M. instead of 6-30 P.M. today. You know, Sir, that it was in fact a non-official day to-day and it is now proposed to avail it for official business. In this way, attempt is being made by the Government that the important Bills which appear on the list of business for today should be hurried through. I would certainly protest against such a hurry because I feel that in that case we will not be able to do justice to the Bills which are desired to be placed on the Statute Book. I find that very important legislative measures are before the House and it would, therefore, be necessary that we should thoroughly examine the provisions of every Bill and this we can only do if we are afforded sufficient time to discuss each clause. If we study the history of previous Bills that were passed by the Assembly, we will find that in the first instance the Government promulgated an Ordinance and then the Bill was passed by the Assembly. Subsequently, when some flaws were discovered in the Bill it was followed by an amending Bill. It

was because of the fact that the Bills were passed in hurry and thus it involved heavy expenditure of the Government in this direction. There is no serious emergency in the State or some such thing as a war breaking out ; we are not faced with any emergent circumstances that we may be asked to complete the business hurriedly and then go to our respective constituencies to make intensive drive for war. On previous occasions also, I opposed the idea of taking up official business on Thursdays when such a motion was made by the hon. Chief Minister. It is certainly an infringement of the rights of hon. Members to deprive them of the opportunity of moving important resolutions in the House on a day fixed for this purpose. But such rights are being infringed as the Government commands overwhelming majority. As it exercises preponderant influence in the Assembly, the Opposition cannot take an independent stand and has to submit to its decision. Instead of following a normal course, the Government is taking up Government business on a day fixed for non-official business and is thus trying to adjourn the Assembly on the 31st of this month. I fail to understand why business is being transacted so hurriedly especially when no additional expenditure is likely to be incurred by the Government in case the House were to sit for a few days more. The Members are in receipt of fixed compensatory allowance and for this reason I do not see any point in an early adjournment of the session. I would have certainly welcomed the idea of prolonging the session for another six months so that we could have passed all the legislative measures after careful consideration. That step would have really shown that the legislators in the State were working in the public interest and that the provision of grant in the Budget on Compensatory Allowance of Members was for the benefit of the public. But I am sorry to say that from the previous record of working of the Legislative Assembly, it appears that legislation work has been much ignored. During the period from 1947-50, we have passed only a few Bills.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The honourable Member need not refer to that.

Sardar Bachan Singh : In November 1947, there were only six or seven sittings of the Assembly. In March, 1948, and October 1949, the time was devoted to pass the Budget. The other day a full day was taken to discuss the Sugar Factories Control Bill. Now from the lists of business it appears that there are about 28 Bills to be passed. Some of the Bills are very important.

So far as my information goes, the Government wants to rush through all this legislative business comprising about twenty-seven Bills in two or three days. Sir, I feel this is very unfair. It amounts to playing a joke with the people who are going to be affected by the proposed legislation. After all, this House is primarily a legislative body as its name indicates. Will it look proper on its part to devote so many sittings to the discussion of the

[Sardar Bachan Singh.]

Budget and to give two days to legislation which is its primary function? Do we want to make a laughing-stock of ourselves, simply because some of us are anxious to return to their places and then to leave for Hardwar to witness the Kumbh fair? We have no objection, even if they they want to leave to-day but surely the termination of the session without giving sufficient consideration to important legislative measures and passing them in a hurried manner would not be a matter of credit for those who claim to take any interest in this work and are particular about discharging their duties conscientiously. Our province, being on the border, occupies a very important place in India. The incidence of crime has already shown a marked increase.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to roam about, but to confine himself to the motion before the House.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am not roaming about, Sir. I was stressing this need for very careful consideration of the measures that the Government wants to be enacted to-day, so that no flaws or defects may be left anywhere in them,

I wonder, Sir, what made the hon. Chief Minister move the motion that the Assembly should sit till 8-30 P.M. I fail to understand what has prompted him to do so. Why couldn't the session be extended, instead of departing from the normal course and compelling the Members to sit longer hours and late hours? It will be no surprise, if a motion is brought to-morrow that the House should sit till 12 P.M, so that no items may be left over and it may be possible to adjourn the Assembly *sine die*. After all what is the cause of terminating the present session to-morrow without fail, when we are prepared to stay at this place for a month more or even for a longer period, in order that legislative measures may have the fullest consideration possible before being put on the Statute Book?

Has the time of to-day's sitting been extended with a view to warn the Members that if they do not agree to the passage of all these Bills on the agenda to-day, they may have to sit even for a longer time, to-morrow? Does the Government want to stifle discussion and rush through all this important legislation on the pain of tiring the Members to the breaking-point? So far as I can see, this appears to be its real intention; otherwise the session could easily continue until every measure had been fully discussed and thrashed. I can't understand the logic of the reasoning that there is a heavy agenda for to-day and so discussion should be limited. Who is responsible for putting so many important Bills on a single day's list? Surely not we. I can assure the Government that all these bills can be fully discussed and enacted, only if the session is extended for a few days more. But we

can't understand this improper and undue haste, which does not redound to anybody's credit. Put as many Bills on the agenda as can be easily disposed of by this House in the course of a day's normal sitting. What is the use of making the Members over-exert themselves ?

Then, Sir, no such indication was given to the House that it will have to sit longer today. We came to know of it only this morning after going through the newspapers. Such things are not in keeping with the dignity of this honourable House. It appears the hon. Chief Minister disclosed his mind to the press representatives, though he did not think it fit to take the House into confidence.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave this aside. Nobody knows that.

Sardar Bachan Singh : This is not all, Sir. The press report to which I am referring also indicates that if the Members of the Opposition do not agree to the hurried passage of the Bills, all the Members will have to bring their dinner and bedding to the Chamber, since they may be required to sit till very late in the night. Keeping all these things in view, Sir, it would not be wrong to say that the Government wants to make a mockery of legislative work. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, not to let this august body become the subject of ridicule in the eyes of the people, who are sure to get the impression that the hon. Members of the House are more anxious to return home and participate in other activities than the performance of their primary duty. We should not create the impression that we only want to get pecuniary advantage of being members of this august House in the form of compensatory allowance or T.A. and do no work.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflection, please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, when so many important measures are proposed to be enacted in this session, is it not proper that we should display some courage and forbearance instead of becoming anxious to hurry back, after putting hasty and ill-considered legislation on the Statute Book ? After all, we have to establish good conventions in this House and not create bad impression about ourselves of being work shirkers. It is a question of the dignity and the prestige of this House. We should give due attention and time to the legislative work, since this is our primary job.

There are no abnormal circumstances ; war is not near at hand, nor is it a state of emergency, that our presence in our native places should be needed urgently. There is no such urgent work awaiting us as may demand our immediate return to our places. There are no elections at hand, whether of the Municipal Committees or the Districts Boards. After all, how can we justify this improper hurry to finish the session ? I know you will pull me up, Sir, but I

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

cannot help saying that decisions are being taken by the Government in consultation with astrologers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave aside such matters.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the legislative work is of such paramount importance that even if we have to devote one or two hours to each clause of every Bill, we should not grudge it nor consider it a waste of time. We should have the satisfaction of giving thorough consideration to a measure which is going to affect the general public. To think that since nine Bills are put on the agenda all have to be passed today, is a wrong notion. It is for these reasons that I oppose the motion that has just been moved. The work should be done in the normal course even though the session may have to be prolonged for a month more. We shall have no objection to it.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I did not stand up before to speak as I was under the impression that there was perhaps a whip from the party disallowing us to take part in this discussion. I now learn that the party has issued no such whip.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, is the hon. Member in order when he discusses party matters ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** He should not bring in party matters.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, the principle involved in the motion sponsored by the hon. Chief Minister is so important that I cannot help expressing my views on it. The motion definitely seeks to establish traditions which are against the spirit of democracy. I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should not insist on sitting till late hours. There appears to be no reason why we cannot carry over the work which cannot be transacted today to tomorrow. In case we should be in need of more time, we can utilize Saturday. Perhaps some sense would have been found in this motion for sitting from 6-30 p.m. to 8-30 p.m. if we were taken by a cataclysm but fortunately there is no such thing as that. There is no Bill on the agenda which if not passed today will result in heavens falling on earth or an uncontrollable revolution. As a matter of fact we should not take an undue advantage that as there is no opposition we may do things as we please. By rushing through legislative work we will give a very poor opinion to the public at large who naturally expect that we should make laws for them after due consideration. However, if we want more time, I suggest that Saturday or even Sunday may be made use of as was done in one of the States.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, as the House is aware, to non-official days have already been taken by the Government for official

business and we did not object to it. But the motion which has now been moved by the hon. Chief Minister regarding extension of the hours of sitting from 6-30 p.m. to 8-30 p.m. does not appear to be acceptable. It is not acceptable not because we do not want to sit for longer hours, we are prepared to sit even till 12 p.m., but there is no satisfactory reason for doing so. I don't think that there is any measure on the list of business which if not passed may result in havoc for us. I am reminded of a Punjabi saying :

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No sayings please.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Very well, Sir, I shall **not** quote the saying.

Sir, usually there are only two sessions of this House. The Budget session lasts for about a month whereas the other, for a week or so. A huge expenditure is incurred on these sessions. I ask, is so much expenditure incurred only to rush through legislation with all possible speed without giving proper consideration to the bills by making the hon. Members sit from 6-30 p.m. to 8-30 p.m? If we work with this haste, surely the public will not be pleased with us. Therefore, I request the hon. Chief Minister that he should kindly withdraw his motion as it is no use passing twenty five Bills in two days.

✓ **Mr. Speaker .** Hon. Members seem to be under the impression that all the Bills on the agenda are to be passed today. As a matter of fact they can devote the whole time only to one Bill.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal (South-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have stood up to make an appeal to the House through you, For some time past, discussions have been taking place and some work has also been transacted in this House which neither satisfies our people nor ourselves. As I realized that it was futile to make speeches in this House, I have kept silent for a very long time. But then there is a limit to everything. Today I find that my patience has been exhausted.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, is the hon. Lady Member in order when she says that it is futile to make speeches in this House ?

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : I tell my hon. Brother Sardar Shiv Saran Singh that it is my earnest desire to see this House performing magnificent deeds. But unfortunately, at present it excels only in the making of speeches and does nothing substantial.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is a reflection on the House as a whole.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Sir, I only wish to bring out that we are not discharging our duty properly.

[Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal]

I wish to submit, Sir, that we should perform our duties properly and enhance the prestige of this House. Why should the Government try to rush through all these Bills in two days ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Where is it stated that these Bills should be passed in two days ?

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : The Leader of the Congress Assembly Party, who is also the Leader of the House, desires that the meeting to-day should continue till late in the evening. As the hon. Sardar Bachan Singh enquired, what extra-ordinary situation are we faced with that the meeting should continue for such long hours ? I cannot ignore the reports which have appeared in the newspapers today. The Congress Assembly Party met till 9-30 last night but no decision regarding passing of any specified number of Bills at today's meeting was taken there. We cry hoarse voicing the demands of the people but the hon. Members occupying the Treasury Benches go on making promises which they never fulfil. I beg to submit that we should not call ourselves representatives of the people, if we cannot perform our duties properly. Undoubtedly, it is our duty to transact the essential business without delay but as I told the hon. Chief Minister, he should not try to rush through the whole work and make the Assembly act like a non-stop bus.

An hon. Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : I have patiently listened to the speeches delivered by my hon. Friends in order to understand as to what mistake I have committed in bringing forward this motion and how I could be charged with acting with unnecessary haste. I do not wish to bring party affairs in discussion, though an effort has been made by some hon. Members to show that they would have been in a position to express their opinion more freely, if no whip had been issued. I did not say to any newspaper correspondent that I wished to terminate the session at an early date, nor is that thing implied in the motion moved by me. When there is some urgent business before the House, I expect the hon. Members to realize their responsibility and devote more time to it. It is with a view to enable the hon. Members to discuss certain measures for a longer time that I have requested them to sit for two extra hours today. My hon. Friend, Sardar Bachan Singh, said that he could not get sufficient time for studying these Bills and giving notice of amendments

which he might consider necessary. In this connection, I wish to point out that these Bills were published long ago. Members of the party were asked to send their amendments so that those might be considered. They were also informed that such Bills would be taken up on the specified dates. This information was sent long ago. Under the Rules, notice of amendments is in time if it is received even two days before the date of discussion of the Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, why should the hon. Chief Minister waste the time of the House by bringing in party matters ?

Chief Minister : I am speaking to the motion. The hon. Member who has interrupted me should know the Rules of the House. I was submitting, Sir, that I moved this motion because I did not consider it improper to ask those hon. Members, who claimed that they wished to discuss these Bills thoroughly and were prepared to attend meetings of the Assembly for months together, to sit for two extra hours today. I have only suggested that we should devote more time to the work before us. It is nowhere laid down that certain Bills have to be passed today. In order to enable the hon. Members to devote more time to the discussion of Bills, the suspension of question hour was also proposed but dilatory tactics were adopted and the time which could have been utilized in discussing Bills was spent in speaking about other matters. It is not true to say that I wish to rush through the work. It has not been proposed that we should finish certain work before the meeting adjourns. Whatever business is left over is carried to the list of business for the next meeting. I have not said that the session should end on the first or second April or for that matter on any particular date. One thing which I desire is that we should not adopt dilatory tactics which might necessitate the holding of a meeting on Monday after two off-days during which the hon. Members might visit their respective places. This would involve additional expenditure to the Government. I may be blamed for causing inconvenience to the hon. Members when I say that we should sit for two extra hours today but I admit that I attach greater importance to the necessity of doing essential work. It is not proper to say that I wish to rush through the work. One who has to do the work knows its urgency. It is easy for others to criticize. I have been a Member of the legislature for a long time and I remember that in 1937 or 1938, on one occasion the Assembly meeting had to continue till about mid-night for passing certain Bills. At that time the motion was for a non-stop sitting. The meeting had to continue till the business before it was completed.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : The hon. Member used to oppose such motions.

Chief Minister : As I have submitted, the motion at that time was that the meeting was not to be adjourned till the entire business had been finished.

[Chief Minister]

It was quite different from the one moved by me. My hon. Sister, Shrimati Shanno Devi, said that I should not ask the Assembly to act like a non-stop bus. I wish to tell her that I have only requested that the meeting today should continue for two hours longer. I don't understand why those hon. Members who charge us with incurring unnecessary expenditure should consider it a burden to sit for two hours extra. With these words, I appeal to the hon. Members to accept this motion.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir. I just want to submit that the motion that is now before the House is not in order. Under the Rules, the House can adjourn to a subsequent day unless directed otherwise. The only course left open to the Chief Minister was to move a motion that this rule be suspended till the business set on the order paper was completed. My submission, therefore, is that this motion contravenes the Rules of Procedure.

Chief Minister : Which rule is being contravened ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member, it seems, has overlooked the opening words of the rule, i.e., "Unless the Assembly otherwise directs". Ordinarily the Assembly when it meets at 2 p.m. has to adjourn at 6.30 p.m. Now if this motion is carried, it means that the Assembly directs that instead of adjourning at 6.30 p.m. it should adjourn at 8.30. It was, of course, open to the Chief Minister to move a motion under subclause (c) of Art. 12, but he has not done so and instead of that he has moved a motion that the Assembly should adjourn at 8.30. The motion is perfectly in order.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : If you will kindly refer to Rule 12....

Chief Minister : On a point of order. You have been pleased to rule that the motion is in order. Can any Member challenge your ruling ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The relevant rule is——

Unless the Assembly otherwise directs...

- (1) The Assembly shall meet whilst in session on all days except Saturdays and Sundays.....
- (2) The Assembly shall meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. and adjourn at 6.30 p.m....
- (3) At 6.30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and at 2 p.m. on Fridays or earlier if the business set down in the list of business for the day is completed, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.

So it is obligatory that the Assembly must adjourn at 6.30 p.m.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member has again lost sight of the fact that all these sub articles (1), (2) and (3) and even the subsequent sub paragraphs are covered by the opening words, "Unless the Assembly otherwise directs". The assembly now directs that instead of adjourning at 6.30, it should adjourn at 8.30.

Question is —

That the Assembly shall adjourn to-day at 8.30 p.m. instead of at 6.30 p.m.

The Assembly divided : Ayes : 54 Noes : 4.

AYES.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Amar Nath, Shri Vidyalankar.
Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
Beli Ram, Thakur.
Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhagwan Dass, Shri.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
Buja Ram, Bhagat, Shri.
Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
Dalip Singh, Thakur.
Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.
Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, The hon. Dr.
Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The hon. Sardar.
Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.
Ishar Singh Mujhail, Sardar.
Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
Jaswant Singh Duggal, Sardar.
Jiwan Lal, Pandit.
Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
Kabul Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kehr Singh, Sardar.

Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lehna Singh Sethi, The hon. Dr.
Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
Mehr Chand, Chaudhri.
Narinder Singh, Sant
Narotam Singh, The hon. Sardar.
Pancham Chand, Thakur.
Partap Singh, Sardar.
Piara Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Prithvi Singh Azad, The hon. Shri.
Ranjit Singh, Captain.
Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
Shiv Singh, Sardar.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sudarshan, Seth.
Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.
Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.
Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
Udham Singh, Sardar.
Virendra, Shri.
Waryam Singh, Sardar.

NOES:

Bachan Singh, Sardar.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.

Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949-50.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, as required by Article 390-A(2) of the Constitution of India, I lay on the table the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1949-50, authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

3 P.M. "As required by Article 390-A (2) of the Constitution of India, I hereby authenticate the following Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the financial year 1949-50, which specifies —

- (a) the Supplementary Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its session, held in March 1950, and
- (b) the sum required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the State.

Supplementary Statement

| No. of Grant | Major head included in Demand | Supplementary Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly | Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the State | Total |
|--------------|---|--|--|--------------------|
| | I—SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| | Expenditure Charged to Revenue | | | |
| 2 | 8—Provincial Excise ... | 2,87,200 | ... | 2,87,200 |
| 3 | 9—Stamps ... | 11,140 | ... | 11,140 |
| 6 | 12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles ... | 2,75,220 | ... | 2,75,220 |
| | 13—Other Taxes and Duties ... | | | |
| 7 | XVII—Irrigation Working Expenses | 21,01,100 | ... | 21,01,100 |
| | 18—Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenue | | | |
| ... | 22—Interest on Debt and other obligations ... | ... | 40,71,700 | 40,71,700 |
| | 23—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt | | | |
| 10 | 25—General Administration ... | 14,42,560 | 3,480 | 14,46,040 |
| 11 | 27—Administration of Justice ... | 84,400 | 70,330 | 1,54,730 |
| 16 | 38—Medical ... | 5,77,490 | ... | 5,77,490 |
| | 39—Public Health | | | |
| 18 | 41—Veterinary ... | 23,310 | ... | 23,310 |
| 20 | 43—Industries ... | 3,77,490 | ... | 3,77,490 |
| 23 | Charges on Buildings and Roads Establishment | 12,56,200 | ... | 12,56,200 |
| 28 | 54—Famine | 5,790 | ... | 5,790 |
| 29 | 55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions | 24,64,750 | 48,060 | 25,12,810 |
| 31 | 56—Stationery and Printing ... | 3,84,090 | ... | 3,84,090 |
| | Total Expenditure Charged to Revenue ... | 92,90,740 | 41,93,570 | 1,34,84,310 |
| | Expenditure not Charged to Revenue | | | |
| ... | 65—Capital Outlay on Forests ... | 86,000 | ... | 86,000 |
| ... | 71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research | 58,29,100 | ... | 58,29,100 |
| 21 | 72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development | 4,50,410 | ... | 4,50,410 |
| 23 | Charges on Buildings and Roads Establishment | 55,000 | ... | 55,000 |
| 30 | 83—Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions | 3,48,650 | ... | 3,48,650 |
| 34 | 85-A—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading | 2,40,06,210 | ... | 2,40,06,210 |
| | Total Expenditure not Charged to Revenue | 3,07,75,370 | ... | 3,07,75,370 |

| No. of Grant | Major head included in Demand | Supple-
mentary
Grants made
by the
Punjab
Legislative
Assembly | Sums
required to
meet ex-
penditure
charged on
the
revenues of
the State | Total |
|--------------|---|--|---|--------------------|
| | IN—TOKEN DEMANDS | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| | Expenditure Charged to Revenue | | | |
| 1 | 7—Land Revenue ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 8 | Charges on Irrigation Establishment ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 12 | 28—Jails and Convict Settlements ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 13 | 29—Police ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 14 | 36—Scientific Departments ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| | 47—Miscellaneous Departments ... | | | |
| 15 | 37—Education ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 17 | 40—Agriculture ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 19 | 42—Co-operation ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 22 | 50—Civil Works ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 23 | Charges on Electricity Establishment and
Miscellaneous Expenditure | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 32 | 57—Miscellaneous ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| | Total Expenditure Charged to Revenue ... | 110 | ... | 110 |
| | Expenditure not Charged to Revenue | | | |
| 9 | 68—Construction of Irrigation Works, etc. ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 26 | 81—Capital Account of Civil Works (Outside
the Revenue Account) | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 27 | 81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes
, Outside the Revenue Account). | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 33 | 82—Capital Account of other Provincial Work
(Outside the Revenue Account) | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 35 | Advances not bearing Interest—Advances Re-
payable | 10 | ... | 10 |
| 36 | Loans to Municipalities and Advances to Cul-
tivators, etc. | 10 | ... | 10 |
| | Total Expenditure not Charged to Revenue ... | 60 | ... | 60 |
| | GRAND TOTAL ... | 4,00,66,280 | 41,93,570 | 4,42,59,850 |

SIMLA :
The 30th March 1950.

C. M. Trivedi.
Governor of Punjab.

PREVENTION OF HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES BILL.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill.

REFUGEES' REHABILITATION (LOANS AND GRANTS) AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume discussion on the East Punjab Refugees' Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Amendment Bill, 1950.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, when we were considering this Bill on the last occasion, I wanted to say that the Bill before us was an amendment to the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act 1948. This amendment to the original Act involves a very important principle to which I wish to draw the attention of our Government. In my opinion, that principle is fundamental. If we see section 5 of the Act, we find the following :—

- (1) Any refugee may submit to the Deputy Commissioner, within the local limits of whose jurisdiction he resides or intends to carry on his business or profession, an application in the prescribed form supported by an affidavit, stating the amount of loans or grant desired by him, the purpose for which it is desired and the manner in which the repayment of the loan, if granted to him, is proposed.
- (2) The Deputy Commissioner, if satisfied that the applicant is a refugee, may—
 - (a) if the application is for a grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 250 or for a loan of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000, sanction the loan or the grant, as the case may be, to the extent of the amount stated in the application or any lesser amount as he may consider fit ;
 - (b) if the application is for a grant of a sum exceeding Rs. 250 or for a loan of a sum exceeding Rs. 2,000 forward it along with his recommendations as to the amount for which it may be sanctioned to the Financial Commissioner.

Now Sir, the amendment proposed runs thus :—

Section 5-A (1)—Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding section the Financial Commissioner may entertain direct from any individual refugee or a group an application in the prescribed form supported by an affidavit stating the amount of loan desired, and the manner in which repayment of the loan, if granted, is proposed.

Sir, the fundamental principle to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members and of the Government is, what place we like to give to the district officers in the affairs of administration. Hon. Members are aware that the unit of our administrative machinery is the district. In the present set-up, our district officers are so placed that they can submit reports after duly considering all the aspects of any matter. Final orders are generally passed on the basis of such reports. The effect of this amendment would be that the district officers or the men at the spot would not have their say. I am of the view that such officers have a greater opportunity of making inquiries at the spot with the aid of other officers and the local agencies. On the basis of these enquiries, they make recommendations and they take full responsibility for what they report. In this matter what I have to say is that we are trying to eliminate the district officers. I, therefore, submit that by putting forward this amending measure the Government is making an attempt to eliminate the district officers who have so far been entertaining the applications of the refugees for purposes of granting loans to them. I feel that the Financial Commissioner is being burdened with an embarrassing responsibility. May I ask whom, after receiving applications direct, he would consult and through whom he would conduct enquiries with a view to finding out whether the applicant deserved the loan or not? What would be his source of enquiry? How is he going to be guided in this matter? If the Government feels that the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, would himself enquire into each application or cause enquiries through certain subordinates, then would it not be better to entrust the matter to a responsible officer, I mean the Deputy Commissioner who has already at his disposal necessary means and resources for causing such enquiries? Now the Government intends to empower the Financial Commissioner to grant loans to refugees. The result would be that in the first instance he would not be able to conduct enquiries thoroughly in the matter. If at all he does, it would be a half-hearted enquiry. Even if this is done then a very highly paid officer would be performing the same duty which a lesser paid officer, namely the Deputy Commissioner, could do. This means that Government are incurring more expenditure for the accomplishment of the same work which could be done at a lesser cost. Even if we ignore these facts we must know the source from which he would be guided in regard to the desirability of granting loans to the refugee applicants. You will agree with me, Sir, that [h]owsoever capable and wide-awake an officer may be, there are limits beyond which he cannot perform his multifarious duties as efficiently as he would have done if the work was a bit light and he had adequate means to accomplish that task. Supposing he knows a few applicants, they would receive justice all right, but what about others who are not known to him? How would he be able to assess their requirements properly? I, therefore, deplore the tendency of the Government to centralize

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.]

power in their own hands. Now is the age of decentralisation. It appears that Government wants to revert to the same methods which used to be in vogue with regard to the appointment of Assistant sub Inspectors of Police and Naib Tehsildars. You will perhaps remember, Sir, that they could not be appointed without the approval of the Government. Similar method is going to be adopted by the Government in the matter of grant of loans to the refugees. I am sure this system is bound to fail. Now the difficulty is that we cannot get any amendment in the Bill as it stands nor can we force a division on it to register our dissent from it. I therefore wish to draw the attention of the Government to the principle underlying this measure. I may tell them that this is not a good principle which from administrative point of view can get them a good certificate. Besides, the argument that the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, will have ample facilities in the Secretariat for the disposal of the loan applications, does not appeal to me because this is a matter which involves thorough enquiry. So Government will be well-advised to decentralize powers as much as possible so that people may not carry the impression that the Government are out to concentrate power in their own hands and they do not want even their officers to use them for running the administration.

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly, representing Gujranwala-Shahdara, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we have received the whip that the Bill under consideration is to be passed as it stands.

✓ **Mr. Speaker**: I would request the hon. Members to avoid reference to the whip issued by the Government.

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann: My hon. Friend who preceded me has very clearly pointed out the defects in the Bill. I have no mind to repeat them. But I may point out that if the Financial Commissioner is vested with the powers to entertain loan applications of the refugees direct, the venue of loans would shift to Simla which is a very expensive place. It involves great inconvenience to reach this place and the poor refugees would be put to great hardship. This centralization of power in the hands of the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, would naturally attract the refugees to Simla with a view to making efforts to get their loans granted by him. I feel it would have been better if Government had refrained from bringing forward this measure and the refugees had been allowed, as usual, to submit applications to the Deputy Commissioner and obtain loans from him. Now they would be made to incur extra expenditure to come over to Simla which they cannot afford to bear. May I ask, Mr. Speaker, how the Financial Commissioner would be in a position to verify the contents of the application of a refugee? How will he know whether the applicant really deserved

REFUGEES' REHABILITATION (LOANS AND GRANTS) AMENDMENT BILL (18) 2

the loan and what his source of income was from which he would repay the loan? What machinery is he going to set up for causing thorough enquiries in the matter? If after all he has to send these applications to the Deputy Commissioner concerned for verification or scrutiny, then where is the necessity of vesting in him the power to grant loans to the refugees? Then there is another side of the picture. All those persons who are known to the hon. Ministers or the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, would easily get the loans, while others will have to experience great difficulty in achieving their object. If this Bill is passed, the Ministers, particularly the Minister for Rehabilitation, would be faced with another difficulty. He would receive such a large number of applications for loans that it would become well nigh impossible for him to please everybody. In other words, he would please none and incur the odium of everyone. Much of his time would be wasted in making recommendations for the grant of loans. He would be forced to send a list of the refugees to the Financial Commissioner for grant of loans and he would have to sanction the applications. In this way, the very object of the Bill would be defeated. Besides, the position of the hon. Minister would become untenable. But if he thinks that with the passage of the Bill, his position would be strengthened, then he can please himself. I may tell him that not a single application for loan would go to the Financial Commissioner, and all the applications would come to him straight and he will be forced to recommend them. I am not mentioning anything new; it happens every day, since certain people feel that accessibility to the hon. Minister is easier than to the Financial Commissioner. So on these grounds I oppose the principle of the Bill. The existing arrangements in regard to the submission of applications for loans should be allowed to continue. Hence the Bill no longer appears to be necessary.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill now before the House. Hitherto, the law provided that application for loan be made to the Deputy Commissioner who sanctioned it after making certain necessary enquiries. Now according to the provision of the proposed amending Bill, it is the intention of the Government to empower the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, to sanction such loans. It is clear from the Bill now before the House that enquiries which used to be held previously would not be necessary now. I am of the opinion that if the proposed Bill is passed into law, Government would have to face certain difficulties in recovering the loans thus sanctioned. If a person who applies for loan does not possess any house or shop in the town, it would be well-nigh impossible for the Government to recover the loan thus granted. The policy of the Government in centralizing the whole thing will do no good. It will instead create manifold difficulties. Under the circumstances, the system of giving loans directl

[Master Gurbanta Singh.]

by the Financial Commissioner without reference to the district officers appears to be very defective. The right of granting loans by one senior officer will, Sir, I am sure, result in the misuse of power. It will not be out of place to mention here that nomination to district boards and municipalities were made directly by the Government without even asking the district officers to recommend the names of suitable persons. My hon. Friends know it full well that only such persons have been nominated to the municipalities who neither owned any land within the municipal limits of that area nor were occupying any rented house within those limits nor even had any experience about the working of the municipalities. The same sort of persons were nominated to the district boards.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member to be relevant.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I am only giving an example. I wanted to show how district officers are not consulted and how power is centralized in one officer. What I wish to submit by way of an instance is that such persons have been nominated to district boards who do not possess any knowledge about its working nor know anything about the life in the rural areas. For instance, my hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth does not know how and where dung is heaped in the villages. This is how nominations are made by the Government. Similarly, so far as the proposed amending Bill is concerned, I am of the opinion that loans would be granted to those persons only who may be residing in U.P., Bengal and other States, while people residing in this State who would be badly in need of loans for establishing factories and other business concerns would not be benefited in the least. Only those persons who can approach the hon. Ministers or the high officials will succeed in securing loans without any rhyme or reason while the claims of those who are poor and needy would continue to be ignored. In my opinion, there was nothing wrong in the provisions of the main Act under which the district officers, on receipt of applications for loans deputed inspectors and other officers to make necessary enquiries and then submit reports whether the loan asked for by the applicant was justified. It goes without saying that recommendations for granting loans, were made by these officers in genuine cases only. Under the provision of the amending Bill, poor people who have no approach to hon. Ministers and other high officials as they do not happen to know any of them, would stand to suffer. On the other hand, loans would be granted to undeserving and influential and a chosen few persons. With these words, Sir, I oppose the proposed amending Bill, now before the House, and resume my seat.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir

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the amending Bill now before the House is of a controversial nature. The question arises as to what sort of machinery should be set up for granting loans and grants so that both the applicants and the Government may be satisfied with its working. My hon. Friends know it full well that a different type of machinery was set up for sanctioning the grants and loans to people previously and it has been experienced that there was no such system which could give entire satisfaction to the people. As a matter of fact, the Government made all out efforts to make grants and loans available to people through Deputy Commissioners and advisory committees whose duty it was to consider their applications and sanction loans and grants accordingly. After some time, complaints were made by the people about the distribution of loans and grants to the effect that they had made a bad choice in nominating their own people to these advisory committees. Allegations were also made against the Deputy Commissioners for appointing their own people to these committees and thus advantageously playing one party against the other. When efforts were made to set these matters right, complaints continued pouring in even against this action on the part of the Government. Unfortunately it so happens that the atmosphere both in and outside this august House is such that the general public is led to believe that everything is being done here in this State under pressure of influence. It is simply because of this fact that people complain against the working of the committees, the Deputy Commissioners and also the Government. What I wish to submit is that so far none of the hon. Members has made any constructive suggestions in this direction with a view to give entire satisfaction to the people. So far as the functionaries of the Government, whether Financial Commissioners or Deputy Commissioners, are concerned, criticisms are being levelled against them for being supporters of the Government. So far as my experience goes, I have had a very bitter experience of the working of these committees. As a matter of fact, we do find many defects in these committees but all the same I do not find any other alternative according to which justice and justice alone could be done while dealing with the applications for loans and grants from the needy persons.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir, I would like to remind my hon. Friend that the old system of granting loans and grants has not been done away with. According to the provisions of the amending Bill now before the House, only additional powers already exercised by the Deputy Commissioners are intended to be given to the Financial Commissioner Rehabilitation.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : After all, it is our duty to strengthen this machinery. But so far as the question regarding the additional powers is concerned, I do not think that these will prove satisfactory. But all the same

[Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

I do not find any other alternative and if for argument's sake there be any, I am sure, that too would be subjected to vehement criticism.

Further I would like to point out that the proposed alternative has been subjected to much criticism. It has been said that the Financial Commissioner who will be empowered with additional powers and who will thus be all-powerful will not do anything substantial and that he is likely to take undue advantage of these wide powers. It has also been said that the hon. Ministers would also be instrumental in benefitting their own people. So far as I am concerned, I have experienced that there is hardly any person in the machinery of the Government who, knowing some people, would not try to oblige them. The same is the case with the Deputy Commissioners, Financial Commissioner, hon. Ministers and our workers who have worked on the advisory committees. What I wish to point out is that allegations should be made against an hon. Minister or any other official of the Government when they favour only their own people. So far as the allegations against the hon. Minister-in-charge of the Bill are concerned, there can be no two opinions about the honesty, integrity and fairness of Dr. Sahib. In my opinion there should at least be some distinction in making allegations against the hon. Ministers and the officers of the Government. It will not be right to say that since the hon. Minister and the officers of the Government, as has already been said, resort to nepotism, therefore my hon. Friend Dr. Lehna Singh will also resort to nepotism. I do not think there can be any such complaint against him. Under the circumstances, so far as the proposed Bill is concerned, I do not think there is any other alternative and I am of the opinion that the Financial Commissioner, being the competent authority, should be empowered to sanction loan applications. I, therefore, do not find it advisable to oppose the Bill, now before the House, and I support it with all the emphasis at my command.

Sarda: Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, from the Bill that has been introduced in the House, I find that there is no more extravagance in the Government expenditure. The Financial Commissioner is already over-burdened with work and thus I fail to understand how he would be able to cope with this additional work efficiently. The Financial Commissioner has never been in touch with this work, and it will be merely waste of time if this work is also entrusted to him. Just as it is always well to suggest super-fine and costly medicine in case of serious disease, so it would not look proper to assign such a petty work to a high officer of the status of Financial Commissioner. It is surprising to find that the Government has placed such a heavy agenda before the House. It appears that the Government has not exercised due care and attention in doing so. Sometime back in the course of reply to a question, the hon. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, remarked that it was only a concession to those people who

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could not submit their application to the Deputy Commissioner in time that they could now do so to the Financial Commissioner. But I am of the opinion that this additional work should not be assigned to the Financial Commissioner on account of the fact that he has already immense amount of work to do. There is reason to believe that the Financial Commissioner who has never been in touch with this kind of work may not squarely deal with such cases and under heavy pressure of work may arrive at wrong decisions.

In connection with the allotment of land, I would like to point out that in Amritsar district not even 25 per cent of the allotment of land has been properly made. I verified this fact in the seven villages of my ilaqa and wrote to the Financial Commissioner in this behalf. He acknowledged my letter but I do not know what action he took in this matter. I think it is not proper to entrust this work to an officer who is already much overworked. I think that the object of the amendment that is sought to be made in the Bill is not the same as is embodied in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill'. It says :—

To expedite grant of loans to deserving persons, it is necessary to empower the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, to sanction loan applications even though such applications had not been made to the Deputy Commissioners in the first instance.

The only possible impression that can be formed of such an action of the Government is that it would get things done according to its wishes by shifting the responsibility on to the Financial Commissioner. In this way the action of the Ministers will not be subject to any criticism. Under these circumstances, it would be better to adhere to the old practice according to which the advisory committees are responsible for recommending the applications for loans after making necessary enquiry. If the Financial Commissioner is empowered to sanction loan applications there will be possibility of more errors being committed. I would, therefore, ask the Government to run its administration on right lines being guided by the principle of justice and fair play, instead of modifying its attitude to manoeuvre indirect methods to indulge in nepotism and favouritism. It appears that our Government has beaten the record of indulging in nepotism. With these words, Sir, I oppose the Bill and think that there is no need for bringing forward such a Bill.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have stood up to support the Bill. I have been listening to the speeches delivered by some of my hon Friends and find that some Members have expressed their opinion that the Deputy Commissioners should be empowered to sanction the loan applications. Some have suggested that these powers should vest

in the Financial Commissioners. I am of the opinion that it is easier for the Minister to put a recommendation to the Deputy Commissioner but it would be rather impossible for him to do so to the Financial Commissioner. Everybody has his own experience and so far as my experience goes, I think it would be difficult for anyone to influence the Financial Commissioner. A fear has been expressed in certain quarters that a Minister can easily make recommendation to the Deputy Commissioner on telephone. According to the procedure, applications for loans have to be sent to the Deputy Commissioner who has to forward them to the Financial Commissioner with his own remarks. Then the Financial Commissioner may reject the application or sanction the loan. In my opinion it is wrong to say that the Financial Commissioner invariably agrees with the report of the Deputy Commissioner. Secondly, when the Financial Commissioner is aware of an applicant's antecedents, surely there is no reason why his application should be sent for report to the Deputy Commissioner, Tehsildar and other local authorities, resulting in considerable delay. In such cases as for instance that of Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann, it would be in the interests of the refugee concerned to have his application sanctioned directly by the Financial Commissioner. So I feel, Sir, that the amendment proposed in the Bill will simplify the procedure for getting loans in some cases, and would thus be of great help to the needy refugees, in that they will be able to get the money without unnecessary delay. On the other hand, there is nothing in this Bill to prevent the Financial Commissioner from sending back to the local authorities anybody's application for report. With these words, I support this Bill.

An hon. Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, I draw your attention to the Rule as to Closure which runs—

At any time after a question has been proposed a Member rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put," and unless it shall appear to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question "That the question be now put" shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

On this motion only one Member from this side has been allowed to speak and my submission is that the moving of a closure motion at this stage is clearly an infringement of the rights of the minority.

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✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I assure the hon. Member that I have always been liberal in allowing the hon. Members from the Opposition to have their say. When only two Members had spoken, motion as to closure was moved but I did not allow it to be put to the House and more speeches were made. It was only when I found that the arguments were being repeated that I accepted the closure motion. As regards the question of majority and minority, the hon. Member knows it full well that there are only four Members on the Opposition and it is not incumbent on me to allow all the four Members to have their say on each and every motion that is moved in the House. I assure the hon. Member that I always take care that the Members of the Opposition do exercise their right to have their say.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, some hon. Members have opposed this Bill because they seem to suspect us of having some ulterior motives. Objection has been raised mainly on the ground that by vesting powers in the Financial Commissioner of receiving and sanctioning loan applications directly, we are making it easy and convenient for ourselves to help our friends etc., and to have the loan applications sanctioned according to our wishes. This is far from being true, Sir. This House has a right to know the exact reasons which made it necessary for the Government to bring this amending Bill.

As you are aware, Sir, there is an organization called the Finance Rehabilitation Administration at Delhi for sanctioning loans of a higher amount than Rs. 5 thousand to the refugees. When any application for such a loan is received by them, they subject it to a very close scrutiny and investigation in order to determine whether the applicant really deserves a loan of more than Rs. 5 thousand or not. Now applications are received by them in thousands and naturally their scrutiny and final disposal take a very long time, often more than 6 months. Now supposing after six months, the Finance Rehabilitation Administration rejects the application of a refugee on the ground that he is entitled to a loan of less than Rs. 5 thousand, would it be desirable to send his application back to the local authorities for report and delay the matter for another six months especially when his case has already been thoroughly examined by the said Administration? Would it be fair to keep the poor man on tenter-hooks for another six months? Would it not be better to give the Financial Commissioner powers to sanction loans in such cases, without holding further investigation? I feel, Sir, that those who are opposing this Bill are doing a dis-service to the refugees. If this amending Bill is not passed, applications of all those whose cases have been rejected by the Finance Rehabilitation Administration because under the rules they cannot sanction loans of lesser amount than Rs. 5 thousand would, according to the old procedure, have to go to the local authorities for investigation and report and the refugees concerned will be put to a great

hardship owing to inordinate delay in the grant of loans to them. In such cases, it would be in the best interests of the refugees, if the Financial Commissioner has the powers to receive and dispose of applications directly.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if it is after proper investigation and inquiry, that the Finance Rehabilitation Administration decides that a particular applicant does not deserve a loan of higher amount than Rs. 5 thousand and so his application should be sent back to the State Government ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : Yes, it is after thorough examination by a board that such a decision is taken and if such applications again go to the district and tehsil officers for report, I am afraid it will be a very lengthy procedure, involving unnecessary delay. Then, Sir, there are cases in which it would be preferable not to follow the usual procedure, as in the interests of the country they might require a speedy disposal. For instance, in the case of the applications of the refugee firms engaged in sports industry at Juliundur desirous of re-starting this industry, any delay in the granting of loans would be detrimental to the interests of the country as this industry helps the country in earning foreign money. If these uprooted firms of Sailkot apply direct to the Financial Commissioner, speedy action would be taken in granting loans to them.

I feel, Sir, that much breath has been wasted on imputing ulterior motives to the Ministers. On the one hand it has been averred, that if the applications go through the lower officers, it would be much better because the Ministers will not have much chance of influencing the decisions on them. On the other hand, some hon. Members hold the opposite view. They seem to think that it would be easier for people to approach the local officers and put undue influence on them and so it is better to give powers to the Financial Commissioner to receive applications directly. I am really surprised to hear these contradictory views. If at all any Minister wants to help anybody, I fail to understand the arguments of my Friends that in one case it would be easier for him and in another rather difficult to achieve his object. What difference would it make to such a Minister whether the deciding authority in a particular case is the Financial Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner ? And then why should it be thought that the services are thoroughly unreliable and untrustworthy ? If it is thought that the higher the officer, the more amenable he is to undue influence, then should all high officers be turned out and the entire work entrusted to the smaller officials in the Deputy Commissioner's office ? Would that make the administration more honest and incorruptible ? So far as I think, the experience of most people is that it is easier to influence the smaller officials than the big ones. The Financial Commissioner.....

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✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No repetition, please.

Minister for Rehabilitation : My hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh said that the time of the Financial Commissioner is very precious and he should not be called upon to do this work. I am not at one with him on this point. Thousands of people will have to be given loans for sums exceeding five thousand rupees and this work is so important that it should be done by an officer who is highly paid and is beyond all suspicions. We wish that this duty must be performed by an officer whom we pay twenty rupees an hour. He should see that loans are advanced to *bonafide* traders who would return the amounts advanced to them.

Shri Bhir Sen Sachar : Is there no need for an agency for inquiry ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : The inquiry agency will not be done away with altogether. If the party asking for loan is known to the Financial Commissioner, an inquiry may not be made but when he is not known to him the application may be forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner for making the necessary inquiry.

An hon Friend remarked that I was creating a hell for myself. In reply I can only say that I came to this hell of my own accord and should therefore not shirk it. If some hon. Members think that I shall be bothered for making recommendations etc., I may assure them that I shall not indulge in making recommendations. I shall, however, do my utmost to see that the refugees requiring loans do not have to face technical difficulties and that their needs are met. I may not be able to tell in the Assembly as to which of the refugees have been given loans but if any of the hon. Members cares to inquire from me outside the House I shall be glad to tell them that such and such people have been given loans. Of course, one thing I must say and it is this that the Financial Commissioner will advance loans only to those refugees who will not misuse this money as it is to be given solely for purposes of rehabilitation. And so far as I am concerned, I shall not ordinarily recommend any case. However, if I do, I shall take the responsibility of the repayment of the loan. I hope all that I have said will satisfy my hon. Friends and they will refrain from any further opposition.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants)
(Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The amendment of Mehta Ranbir Singh is out of order. He can oppose the whole clause if he chooses to.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have got up to oppose the new method of giving loans to the refugees through the Financial Commissioner. In this connection, I have to invite the attention of the House to section 5 of the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act 1948 which is meant to be amended by the present Bill. Section 5 says that grants for amounts less than Rs. 250 and loans which are for less than Rs. 2,000 will be sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner.

Sardar Ajit Singh : It is already known to us. The hon. Member should say something new.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The fact is that the hon. Member does not know anything as he does not care to study the relevant literature. Sir, if the hon. Members bother to read the original Act they will know the powers of the Financial Commissioner in it. The original Act says :

The Financial Commissioner may after consulting such authority, if any, as the Provincial Government may in this behalf prescribe either reject an application or accept it in whole or in part and may specify the conditions on which a loan or grant is to be made and in case of a loan specify the instalments in which it is to be repaid.

These powers of the Financial Commissioner are sought to be substituted as follows by the present Bill :

The Financial Commissioner if satisfied that the applicant is a refugee may, after consulting such authorities, if any, as the State Government may in this behalf prescribe sanction the loan to the extent of the amount stated in the application under subsection (1) or any lesser amount as he may consider fit.

According to the new provision the Financial Commissioner cannot reject an application of anybody after he has made sure that he is a refugee. This means that the powers of the Financial Commissioner are being taken away altogether as after satisfying himself that the applicant is a refugee he cannot reject his application for loan. He has not to make sure whether that refugee would be in a position to repay the loan. This is obviously bad. If private property of a Minister were involved, we would not have objected to such a step but as there is a danger of the State funds being wasted, we take strong exception to it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The hon. Member is ignoring the words 'if satisfied'.

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Mehta Ranbir Singh : But my hon. Friend should know that he has to satisfy himself that the applicant is a refugee. That is all. He is not in a position to reject the application if the refugee cannot repay the loan which is to be given to him. It is true that the Financial Commissioners are very able men and are also very highly paid but what I ask is, how can they do justice to their job unless and until the Government arms them with requisite powers ?

Every day the hon. Members are heard condemning the services in this House but if the significance of the provisions of the Bill is fully realised, it would be admitted that the services are going to be placed in a difficult position. Howsoever capable and honest the Financial Commissioner may be, he has only to satisfy himself whether the applicant is a refugee or not. For the rest of it, the Government would be prepared to listen to all the criticism which may be levelled against it in this House or outside. It has not given more powers to the Financial Commissioner than that of satisfying himself about an applicant being a refugee. I have no objection to permitting these refugees who for certain reasons could not apply for loans earlier, to do so now, but at the same time it should be ensured that not a penny of public money is wasted. It should be spent properly. When the hon. Ministers have to decide these matters, they are faced with many difficulties. If the refugees were to request the Ministers for entertaining their applications, which they could not submit earlier, it might not be possible for them to reject such requests in all cases. It is provided in this Bill that only those displaced persons who have settled in State or propose doing so, can apply for loans. Some refugees were probably unable to decide whether they were to settle in this State or not. The conditions were such that some persons could not make up their mind. In some cases certain persons might have gone to other provinces. If they have now decided to settle in this State, they should be permitted to apply for loans, if they so desire. I realise that this Bill has been moved with a view to enable those persons to obtain loans and grants and I am in full agreement with this proposal. If some displaced persons could not submit their applications to the Deputy Commissioners, they should be enabled to submit these to the Financial Commissioner now.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The hon. Member should keep the time also in view.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The meeting has to continue till 8-30 p. m. and there is no hurry about it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If it is the object of the hon. Member to prove obstructionist, I have another remedy. I draw the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 86 of the Rules of Procedure.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that I quite realize that proper facilities should be provided to those refugees who moved to other provinces but have now decided to settle in this State. For this reason I have not opposed the proposed clause '5-A' of this Bill. I would have supported the other parts of this Bill too, if the only object was to provide facilities to the refugees but I fear that these are likely to be used for other purposes. In my opinion the Bill, permits of other interpretations, which may perhaps be the real object of bringing it forward.

Some hon. Members : We know the hon. Member's object.

Mr. Speaker : The object of the clause is quite clear. I do not see any hidden object in it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : We have to read the wording of the clause and consider the interpretations which are capable of being put on it. We can not depend upon the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to repeat his arguments.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He has nothing more to add.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is an L. L. B. He should differentiate between this clause and the previous clause.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The object of the Government which is clear to me is this. There is a Chinese saying.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Leave that aside. I would ask the hon. Member to be dignified. He should not prove obstructionist.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Not at all, Sir. There is a well-known saying.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No stories please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : There is a saying 'that it never pays any Government to enter others' hearts through the stomach at the cost of public money'. Sir, this is a very apt saying and it applies to the present situation. I want to submit that the trust money placed at the disposal of this Government by the Central Government should be properly utilized.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I want to bring it to the notice of the House that the hon. Member is indulging in repetition and irrelevance and proving obstructionist. I have already warned him a number of times and now I give him the last warning that he should wind up his speech or I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

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Hon. Members : He is obstructing the business of the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I shall be obliged if you will kindly point out to me when I am repeating.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't think the hon. Member is saying anything new. These arguments have already been advanced and now the Bill is being considered clause by clause and the same things are being repeated. Under rule 86 of the Rules of Procedure I ask Mehta Ranbir Singh to discontinue his speech and resume his seat.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Thank you, Sir.

Shri Bhagat Ram Choda (Jullundur, General, Rural) (Hindustani) : Sir, I want to submit that the refugees have already suffered great losses and now whatever amendments are necessary should be made in the Bill. The Government should see that the refugees are provided work without any loss of time. It is a matter of great regret for us all that they have, a large number of them, been without any occupation for such a long time. I would ask the Government to consider this point carefully and so amend the existing laws relating to the refugees that they help in their early rehabilitation. I will not take more time of the House in view of the heavy work before it.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it." This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those members who supported the claim for Division declared that the Division was un-necessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

TITLE,

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be passed

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
Sir, the real object of this Bill is to make the provisions of the original Bill inapplicable to certain influential persons.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflections.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Very well, Sir. It is laid down in section 5 of the original Act :

The Financial Commissioner after consulting such authority, if any, as the Provincial Government may in this behalf prescribe, either reject an application or accept it in whole or in part and may specify the conditions on which a loan or grant is to be made and in case of a loan specify the instalments in which it is to be repaid.

Under this section, the Deputy Commissioner imposed conditions for the repayment of loans on the applications made to him. Then that application was forwarded to the Financial Commissioner who imposed more conditions if he deemed necessary to do so for proper repayment of the loan. But now under this Bill, the condition will be imposed only on common people and not on big ones who would have an approach to the Financial Commissioner straight away. These big people are shy of applying to the Deputy Commissioner, because in that case their applications have to go through many difficult stages. At first there is the Deputy Commissioner and then there is the District Rehabilitation Committee which considers the suitability of every case. Afterwards the application for loan goes to the department of Urban Rehabilitation whose sub-Inspectors and Inspectors see whether the person applying for loan will be able to satisfy the conditions of the loan or not. It is just possible that the Financial Commissioner may agree to the conditions recommended by the Deputy Commissioner. In that case, the big people can be put to some hardship. Now it appears that big people under this Bill, would be saved from the application of any condition for the repayment of loans. If a poor man gets a loan, he will have to pay back in half yearly or yearly instalments. But no such condition is necessary in the case of influential people. As a matter of fact the object

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of this Bill is to give immunity against the application of any conditions for repayment of loans, to those big people whose names it is not in public interest to disclose.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think these things were said by Sardar Sajjan Singh also.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No, Sir. what I wish to say is that the motive underlying this Bill deserves condemnation. While the poor refugees do not stand to gain at all, the rich and influential persons who could not give their applications so far have been enabled to give them now. This Bill gives a concession to such persons. The House is aware that refugees are coming ever since 15th August 1947 and about two and half years have elapsed. Now the first quarter of 1950 is passing. The motive of this amendment is that such influential persons may be enabled to avoid going to the Deputy Commissioners and other officers so that no one may notice them and no public committees may have opportunity of making any objections. Such persons may come straight to the Financial Commissioner and get whatever they want. Special arrangement has been made to enable big persons to get loans without the imposition of any conditions. In this state of affairs the man-in-the-street is quite justified in saying that nepotism and favouritism are the order of the day. If Bills like the one under consideration are passed by the House, the people will certainly think that the Government desires giving concessions to the rich without any help being given to the poor. The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh has stated that the Government wants to see certain industries flourish. Have such industries been started overnight? Were they not in existence some time back? If no applications were given by those persons, what is the reason for that? They could apply earlier. Why this delay? I think the fact is that certain things which pinched certain influential persons had to be removed. So this effort has been made to remove such things. In the original Bill there are many conditions which have to be fulfilled before getting any loan. Now certain persons desire to get loans by giving applications to the Financial Commissioner direct. Why do they wish to apply direct? Why did they not submit their applications previously? I don't wish to reveal the names of such persons. But the fact is that they like to avoid applying to the district officers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No repetition.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, it is quite human to err. But if the Government is bent upon passing such legislative measures, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that.....

Minister For Development : But who is going to listen to your appeals?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is a wrong attitude. Reasonable request should be accepted irrespective of the party or person from whom it emanates.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am hoping against hope. Nobody knows what may happen tomorrow. The hon. Minister may die tomorrow but the work will continue. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that nobody will pay any attention to my suggestion. Sir, in the name of democracy, I appeal to the Government, and I consider it my duty to do so, that the poor displaced persons should be attended to.

Mr. Speaker : The Government resettles the unsettled persons.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Yes, but my contention is that more attention should be paid to the poor persons. It is my firm belief that the enmity of an enemy is not as dangerous as the loss of confidence of the people by a Government.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is irrelevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am going to say that if the Government wishes to pass this Bill by means of the strength of majority that is at its command, it is quite a different matter. But if it looks to the interests of the people of the State, it should realize that the Bill is opposed to it. The Ordinance which will lapse after six weeks is proposed to be given the form of an Act of this House. So I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to its defects. As is evident, it will only serve to look to the interests of those who are influential and rich. The interests of these few should not be taken to mean the interest of the people of the State. Before sacrificing the interests of the poor at the altar of the rich, we should try to consider what we are doing. I appeal to the hon. Members to think of the poor whose interests they are going to ignore.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it." This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

MERGED STATES (LAWS) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill is an important and a necessary measure. It provides for the extension of all those laws to the merged States, which are in vogue in the State of Punjab. Since we are keenly interested to see the people of the State of Dujana, Loharu and Pataudi being administered justice on the basis of these laws, the necessity of this Bill becomes all the more imperative. So it is essential that the Bill be passed without any loss of time. But in this connection I want to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. The object of the Government will not be achieved by merely passing this Bill. I find that in all the 25 or more villages of these merged States, the same top heavy administration continues which should have become unnecessary after their merger in the different districts. The naib-tehsildars and other revenue staff working in the districts could easily administer those villages but the pity of it is that the expenditure on that unnecessary staff is still allowed to continue. I may also point out that unless the same amenities are provided to the people of these States as are being provided by the District Boards of Rohtak, Gurgaon, and Hissar to their people in the matter of education, sanitation etc., the enforcement of the laws as enumerated in the Bill, will not go a long way to ameliorate the condition of the poor people of the merged States.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member is irrelevant.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I bow to your ruling, Sir. But may I ask whether I am within my rights or not to point out to Government that its object in bringing these States to the level of the State of Punjab, would not be achieved by merely passing this Bill and paying little attention to the provision of amenities to the people of these States in the matter of education, sanitation etc. ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member will be right in bringing in a resolution regarding certain steps which he wants the Government to take for the benefit of the people of the merged States.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Bill under consideration is a formal Bill as it relates to the extension of certain laws to the merged States in the Punjab.

Minister for Labour : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member before rising to make a speech pointed towards you and said that you would do what the Leader of the House wants you to do. He should not have uttered this remark.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : I never heard this remark. Anyhow if the hon. Member did utter these words, he should withdraw them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, when I have not said these words, how can I withdraw them ?

(At this stage the official reporter on duty was asked if the hon. Member had uttered those words and the Reporter said he had not heard these words).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When these words have neither been heard by the hon. Speaker, nor spoken by the hon. Member nor even heard or recorded by the official reporter, the matter may be dropped.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : I have been told by the Secretary that these words were spoken.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I did not make this remark which is being put into my mouth.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : Then what did he say ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Before I was permitted to make a speech and while I was sitting in my seat, I said that you would do what the Chief Minister wanted. I thought it was off the record.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : I want that these words should also be withdrawn.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If you so desire, I withdraw them. Well, Sir, I was submitting that this is only a formal Bill and the object underlying it is that the laws which are in force in the Punjab, should be enforced in the merged States also. No one will be pleased more than myself if the Government extends all the good laws except the Punjab Safety Act. I may point out that it is within the jurisdiction of this Legislature and that the Government is within its power to omit the enforcement of any law which it considers would go counter to the interests of the people of the merged States. It will not be out of place to mention here that the Madras High Court declared the Preventive Detention Act passed by the Central Government, as void. This piece of news was hailed in every State of the

Indian Union

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not discuss that.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I have no mind to discuss that Act. I made a mention of it only by way of information. What I want to drive at is that no useful purpose would be served by passing this Bill if the people of the merged States are not fully benefitted by it. If it fails to prove beneficial to them naturally they would have a feeling as expressed in the adage :—

ਮੰਗੀ ਸੀ ਵਛੇਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲ ਗਈ ਉਪਰ ਨੂੰ ।
ਸੰਗੀ ਸੀ ਵਿਛੇਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲ ਗਈ ਉਪਰ ਨੂੰ ।

Only the other day my hon. Friend Bhagat Buja Ram remarked that people were in favour of the merger because they expected that this would result in the improvement of their miserable lot. But he found that the merger had not served any good to them. He, too, exclaimed that

ਮੰਗੀ ਸੀ ਵਛੇਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲ ਗਈ ਉਪਰ ਨੂੰ ।
ਸੰਗੀ ਸੀ ਵਿਛੇਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲ ਗਈ ਉਪਰ ਨੂੰ ।

Then, Sir, it is common knowledge that the old States are much backward and less advanced as compared with the old provinces of India. Since these States have been merged in our province, it becomes our imperative duty to see that they are brought to the same level as we are in the field of economic development and we shall take effective measures for their advancement in the domains of economic, social and educational progress. But we have certain very harsh laws which, I feel, should not be enforced in the merged States. These States have been agitating since they came under the sway of the British, to come in line with the provinces in all spheres of life and now when their efforts have been crowned with success, they should not be made to face such harsh laws as would pique their hearts. We should assure them that since they have decided to go shoulder to shoulder with us, we would extend only those laws which will prove beneficial to them. For instance, as a result of the enforcement of these laws, so many schools will be opened ; so many hospitals will be set up, compulsory primary education would be introduced etc. etc.

Mr. Speaker : But the Bill provides for the extension of all these laws.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am glad to hear that, Sir. If the people of these States can be made to feel that merger would bring them all the amenities enjoyed by the Punjab people, then the object of this Bill is achieved. But if someone from those areas is detained under the Punjab Safety Act or is threatened by the Sub-Inspector of Police unduly, then it is but natural that the people of these States will not be happy at the merger.

I would, therefore, request the Government not to enforce Punjab Public Safety Act in the merged States.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

SUB-CLAUSE (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clause (2) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 - 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

SCHEDULE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Schedule stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

PREAMBLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be passed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, at this stage I would like to say a few words with regard to this Bill. I can say on the basis of my experience that so far as the provisions of the Police Act, referred to in the Schedule 2 of the Bill now before the House, are concerned, under section 75 of this Act Government has been empowered to.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is discussing the Act.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, it is given in the Schedule II of the Bill.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** But that Schedule has been passed. Question is—

That the Punjab Merged States (Laws) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL (CHANGE OF COMPOSITION) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the proposed section 4 which runs—

That East Punjab Special Tribunal shall consist of one member to be appointed by the Provincial Government who shall be a person qualified under subsection (3) section 220 of the Government of India Act, 1935, for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

I do not think that the words "under section (3) of section 220 of the Government of India Act, 1935" are correctly put since we have got a corresponding Article in the Constitution of India. I would like to have the views of Sardar Swaran Singh on the subject.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I think, Sir, that the phraseology of the proposed section 4 as appearing in clause 3 of the Bill does require modification and instead of the words 'under subsection (3) of section 220 of the Government of India Act, 1935', we should incorporate the number of the corresponding Article of the Constitution of India which lays down the same qualifications for a person to be appointed as a member of a Tribunal. Of course it will only be a verbal change but without that change the proposed section as it stands becomes meaningless.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rise to oppose the principle underlying this Bill. Previously the Special Tribunal consisted of 3 members but now it is the intention of the Government that the Special Tribunal should consist of only one member. I do realize the necessity of reducing the expenditure. In fact I would be the first person to support the proposals of the Government for reducing and eliminating unnecessary expenditure. We have all along been urging upon the Government to devise ways and means to reduce its expenditure. But I would like to lay much stress on the point that no reduction should be made in such expenditure which is very necessary and without which it is not possible to carry on the day-to-day administration of the State in the interests of the public. I am of the opinion that the proposed reduction in the composition of the Tribunal from 3 members to one would result in grave injustice to parties who can be benefited to a great extent by the collective wisdom and legal acumen of 3 members. In view of this fact I am of the opinion that justice can in no way be done by one member as proposed in the Bill, now before the House.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Chaulhri Suraj Mal, a member of the Panel of Chairmen.)

If it is the intention of the Government to save money by reducing the strength of the members of the Tribunal, then one is lead to think that the Government is out to effect reduction on such items where it is necessary to spend in the interests of the public, while on the other hand it does not want to reduce unnecessary expenditure which is really a burden on the poor people. Government has not felt the necessity of curtailing the unnecessary expenditure in connection with T.A. and such other things. Lakhs of rupees have been wasted on aeroplanes and still our Government does not fight shy of wasting the public money. Huge amounts have already been spent on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, but nothing is known about its deliberations and decisions. No

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report has so far been made available to the hon. Members about its doings. Now another Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been set up and we do not know yet as to how much money is going to be spent on it. Perhaps the disclosure of this information on the part of the Government may not be in the public interest.

Sir, the question of the liberty of the individual should not be entrusted to one man. The collective wisdom of three members is certainly more useful and effective than one man's opinion. I do not say that a member who is appointed by the Government would not be a man with legal acumen and I can have no doubt about his integrity. But I would say that whenever any complicated case involving an important law point comes up before the High Court, the Chief Justice appoints a Division Bench to dispose of that case. I fail to understand why, when a question of the liberty of the individual is involved, such cases be not entrusted to the three-member tribunal. If Government is influenced by the consideration of effecting economy in Government expenditure, I would suggest that economy could easily be effected in other spheres. But a change in the composition of the tribunal from three-member tribunal to one-member tribunal is hardly desirable. I hope the Government would ponder seriously over this matter. The Government should not show utter disregard for public opinion and if it persistently adheres to the old bureaucratic way of keeping up its own prestige, then I am afraid, it may topple down some day. It must carry public opinion with it and create confidence in the mind of common man that he will get justice and fairplay. It is not fair on the part of the Government to advance the common plea of inadequacy of funds and contemptuously deal with the question of civil liberty by allowing summary trials of the people by a one-member tribunal. A three-member tribunal is absolutely necessary and if there is not sufficient work for them, they should be entrusted with additional work.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Perhaps my hon. Friend does not know that there is not sufficient work even for one man.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : My hon. Friend informs me that there is not enough work even for one man ; if it is so, I really fail to understand the need for such a tribunal at all. I was under the impression that there might be heavy work to be disposed of by this tribunal. It will, under these circumstances, be a sheer waste of public funds to set up even a one-member tribunal. I, therefore, strongly oppose this Bill.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Mr. Chairman, so far as the change from a three member tribunal to one member tribunal is concerned, there should be no serious objection, because orders which are

passed by this tribunal are not final, all orders are appealable. Moreover in criminal administration it is one judge who decides cases and the cases which are brought before this tribunal are not more serious than the cases which come up before the Sessions Judges and a Sessions Judge alone decides these cases. But, Sir, I would take this opportunity to impress upon the Government the desirability of not creating special tribunal for the decision of such cases. So far as this tribunal is concerned, it was constituted seven or eight years ago. Throughout this long period of its existence it has not been able to dispose of any considerable number of cases and the cases have dragged on and on and their end is not in sight even now. It is felt that the special courts that are created have got a natural tendency to lengthen their life and for that reason the disposal of cases is not very speedy. I would, therefore, suggest that this Bill, which is an enabling Bill, should be availed of by the Government in such a manner as to give the task to a member of the permanent service of the judiciary of the State. He should be entrusted to finish the work as part time work in addition to his own duties. If we have special officers appointed for this work then the task is not finished as early as it should be and it is a matter of very serious objection that the cases have lingered on for years together. As a matter of fact, one of these cases actually went to the Supreme Court for collateral matter and the hon. Judges of the Supreme Court referred to the inordinate delay that had been caused in the disposal of the case. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that in making appointment in pursuance of the provisions of this Bill it should not appoint a whole time man or a retired man but should entrust the work to one of the members of the regular service, for instance a Sessions Judge should be asked to do this work in addition to his own duties.

I want to add one thing more. So far as these special judges are concerned, people do not have the requisite amount of confidence in them. There is a feeling that special tribunals are created with a particular object in view, either to record conviction or acquittal. I don't say that this is the intention of the Act but this is the feeling amongst the people amongst whom we have to administer justice. And in administering justice it is not enough that justice is administered but there should also be a feeling among those who are affected by the administration of justice that justice is being administered in a fair manner. Therefore, Sir, it would be good to revert to normality and entrust these cases to ordinary courts in addition to their own duties. Creation of special Magistrates, special Tribunals and other special forums should be stopped and there should be no special courts. So far as the present tribunal is concerned, I think it would not be wrong to say that it has not done any considerable work and I would suggest that the Government should entrust the work pending before it, to a member

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of the permanent service so that he might expeditiously dispose of the cases that have already taken too long a time.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, if we trace back the origin of the proposed provision in the Bill, it will be found to be a lineal descendent of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance promulgated in the British regime in 1943, when all the top leaders of the Congress were rotting in jails without being given an opportunity of trial before a regular law court. A wave of consternation had swept over the length and breadth of the country at the promulgation of this Ordinance and the Congress formed the spearhead of the great agitation that was carried on against the Ordinance. To-day when the same Congress is in power, it is itself enacting measures, based on the provisions of the notorious Ordinance of the British regime to which I have just referred, measures which were then dubbed by it as aiming at the annihilation of individual and personal liberty. I am, however, glad to find that to-day Sardar Swaran Singh, our ex-Home Minister who was responsible for sponsoring the original Act, has expressed himself against the creation of special courts, as the spokesman of the common man and so I feel I must congratulate him on seeing the light at last.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I may inform my Friend that the Bill which I had sponsored has nothing to do with this Bill. That was an entirely different measure.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the original Special Tribunals Act, which is sought to be amended now was passed when Sardar Swaran Singh was the Home Minister. Before being brought in the House, it was subjected to a lot of discussion and criticism before the party meeting, and my Friend had adduced the argument of emergency and abnormal conditions to silence opposition to it. So it is an occasion for happiness that to-day he has expressed himself against the principle of special courts, because he too thinks that the people do not like it.

Then, Sir, we would like to know if any new cases have, since the passing of the Special Tribunals Act, come before these special courts. If no new cases have come, as appears to be the case, why perpetuate this legislation or for that matter give it a worse form? Surely such Acts would do credit to no Ministry formed out of people's representatives. There is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the House. The inherent tendency of the special courts is generally towards speedy disposal and heavy punishments. There is a general impression among the people and it is not without truth that the object of the Governments in creating special tribunals is to mete out the maximum possible punishment to the offenders without

giving them full opportunity of a fair trial. Now that India has become a Sovereign, Democratic Republic and the Constitution that has been adopted ensures certain fundamental rights to its citizens, it would have been in the fitness of things if all such measures, denying full opportunity of securing justice to the people, had been abolished forthwith. But here is our Government trying to give them a worse form, instead of doing away with the ugly remnants of the British rule. Instead of taking steps to ensure fair and full trial to the accused, it is depriving them of whatever little consolation they could have at the presence of puisne judges in the court trying them, and subjecting them to the whims of a single person who might in many cases ignore the ends of justice at the instance of the Government and give the punishment to the accused which they might not deserve. (*Interruption*). I was saying, Sir, that no such conditions are obtaining in the country as might have justified the perpetuation of special courts and passing of such repressive laws.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is not a repressive law.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I think it is a repressive measure. A lawyer like my Friend can make fine distinctions but the common man cannot. To him it is a curtailment of his fundamental rights, of his civil liberty, of the right of fair and full trial. He does not understand lawyer's argument. To him nothing would be preferable to the right of trial in ordinary courts. I wonder why the Government wants to avoid this. Why should not the ordinary courts be trusted to bring the culprits to book? I am afraid, Sir, by assuming the powers proposed in the Bill, the Government wants to play with the liberty of the people. (*Cheers*). Then, if at all the special courts are to continue, why should there not be three judges? Why is it proposed to have only one judge, and deny fair trial to the accused, by leaving him at the mercy of the whims and predilection of one man who may have a harsh bent of mind? Why should there not be two more judges to tone down and balance the possible over-strictness and undue harshness of a single judge? My Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has suggested that it would be better if officers of the rank of Sessions Judges were entrusted with the work of the special courts. From this it appears that the Government intends to appoint judges of ordinary courts on these special tribunals. Then what is the harm if three persons are appointed instead of one? Sir, I really can't understand if even one valid argument can be adduced in favour of special courts in the present circumstances, when there is no emergency nor is one likely in the near future. Nor are there any new cases.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Cases are pending.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Why can't the pending cases be referred to the ordinary courts? Why does the Government want to shun them? The

[Sardar Bachan Singh.]

country is not face to face with a rebellion or an insurrection. Then why should there be hesitation in sending these cases to the ordinary courts? Is it because the judges of the special courts are easily amenable to the influence of the executive and many a time decide cases according to its wishes? And when there is only one judge, it will be all the more easy for the executive to influence him. That our fears in this respect are not without reason will be clear from the judgement recently given by a Magistrate appointed by this very Government to try the Steel Scandal cases. The remarks of the Magistrate trying the steel cases have put this Government to shame and the prestige of the Government has fallen to its lowest ebb. When a Government interferes with the work of the Magistrates and asks them to prolong the cases of the litigants as the Reforms Committee of my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has been lingering on.....

Sardar Swaran Singh : There is some such thing as irrelevancy, but the hon. Member is entirely irrelevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Probably my hon. Friend has felt the pinch as all those who are given to false promises feel when they are found out. I was submitting that if the Tribunal consists of only one judge people may not have faith in that Tribunal and the honour as also the prestige of our Government may be in jeopardy. This was what was voiced by my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh as well.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I never said that.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Our Government should not do any such act which destroys the faith of the people in it. They already have begun to suspect its sense of fairness and justice and they are right in doing so when they find so much of "safarish" going on in this regime. It is time that this Government should think for a moment that it should pass such measures which are likely to bring it a good name. It should give special consideration to its judiciary particularly because its executive has failed to give a good account of itself. The present measure is only a cruel joke with the feelings of the dumb millions who as my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh believes are definitely against the working of this Government. In these circumstances I earnestly request the Government that it should not alienate their feelings. If it does, it shall do so at its own risk.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have listened only to a part of the discussion and from whatever I have listened, I come to the conclusion that my hon. Friend has opposed the measure just for the sake of opposition. He has not tried to know that this

tribunal was set up to try special cases. These special cases did not relate to the Punjab Government. This tribunal is connected with the work of the Burma Fraud cases which were being tried even before partition. As some of the money involved in these cases was lying with the Government of India and some with the Government of Pakistan, these two Governments in consultation with each other decided to set up a tribunal consisting of three Judges. When almost the whole of the work had been disposed of and only one case remained, one of the Judges resigned. At that time when only one case which was a complicated one and the money whereof was lying with the Pakistan Government was pending, the Government of India after consulting the Pakistan Government thought it fit to have only one Judge instead of three Judges in the tribunal. It should be clearly understood that the tribunal was appointed by the Punjab Government at the instance of the Government of India and it is utterly wrong to say that we wanted to benefit some people by giving them extensions. All the cases which are conducted by the tribunal are Government of India cases and the Advocate is also appointed by the Government of India. What we are doing is only this much that a 'one judge tribunal' which was appointed as a result of an agreement between the Pakistan Government and the Government of India by an Ordinance is being recognised by regular legislation. If my hon. Friend had made an attempt to know the actual facts, he would have found that the judge of the tribunal is one Mr. Kalianwala who does not belong to the Punjab. My hon. Friend has delivered such a long sermon not with a view to give any constructive suggestion but only to hurl abuse at the Government. He should have known that the tribunal was set up in consultation with the Government of India and that the Punjab Government had no intention of favouring anybody with extensions etc. I am sorry to say that he was altogether irrelevant and was beating about the bush without knowing real facts.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Kindly excuse him. He knew not what he said.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause I stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

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CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) : I move

That in lines 3 and 4 of the proposed section 4, for the word 'Provincial', the word 'State' be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I move—

That in lines 5 and 6 of the proposed section for the words "under sub-section (3) of Section 220 of the Government of India Act, 1951", the words "under paragraph (2) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister : I move —

That the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill, as amended, be passed

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order. This Bill was introduced by the Minister for Labour, who also moved that the Bill be taken into consideration. Can the Chief Minister make a motion for the passage of the Bill?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Certainly, any Minister can make that motion. Motion moved—

That the Punjab Special Tribunal (Change of Composition) Bill, as amended, be passed.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

PROVISIONAL LEGISLATURE (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) BILL.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill.

Chief Minister (Hindi) : I move —

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Removal of Disqualifications Bill was passed in 1937 in the pre-partitioned Punjab. It was later amended. After the coming into force of the new Constitution, the question arose whether the measures adopted for the removal of disqualifications were applicable in the changed conditions or not. The present Legislative Assembly which came into existence after the partition was governed by the same Removal of Disqualifications Act. It was felt that after the enforcement of the new Constitution if a new measure was not passed, some hon. Members would have to be disqualified from continuing as Members of this House without any fault of theirs. Legal advice from the Government of India was also obtained because it was considered to be in a better position to clarify this point, whether some Members could be said to be holding 'office of profit.' After receipt of its advice, an Ordinance was issued which has now been brought before the House in the shape of Bill. As regards the future, the Assembly which will come into existence after the elections will decide as to which disqualifications should be removed.

So long as this Assembly continues some disqualifications have to be removed, for which purpose an Ordinance had to be promulgated. The same has now been brought before the House in the form of a Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, as all of us are Members of the same party, there is no doubt that all the Bills which the Government brings before the House will be passed on account of party discipline. All the same, I feel that it is my duty to point out the things which I do not consider to be right and proper. I am opposed to the removal of disqualifications from the office of Parliamentary Secretary. Formerly, Parliamentary Secretaries used to be appointed for the assistance of hon. Ministers, so that their work might become lighter. I have noticed that even when there were as many as eleven Parliamentary Secretaries and three Private Parliamentary Secretaries, it was our Chief Minister, formerly known as Premier, who had to go through all the office files. Sometimes, he had to keep awake till 2 A. M. for doing his office work. My hon. Brother, Shri Virendra, who was one of the very eminent Parliamentary Secretaries, stated the other day on the basis of his experience that they were merely camp-followers of the Ministers. On several occasions, when I had the opportunity of visiting the Secretariat, I was pained to notice that the Parliamentary Secretaries moved about like peons. This is how Parliamentary Secretaries are made use of at the time of their stay in Simla. Besides this there were also Private Parliamentary Secretaries who did not attend any office but stayed at home. In a way they held only sinecure posts for which they got salaries without being called upon to do any work. A provision of Rs. 70 thousand has also been made in the Budget for the next year for Parliamentary Secretaries. This has been done at a time when there is an acute financial stringency in the State and certain important matters cannot be taken up for want of funds.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That has been decided by the House.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Secondly, if we abolish altogether the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries, a good impression will be created among the public as well. In spite of the fact that there is no dearth of able hon. Members who can help in the work of administration, no work is provided for Parliamentary Secretaries. Previous experience tells us that no work is allotted to them and the money given to them in the form of salaries goes waste. I, therefore, oppose the prevention of disqualification in the case of Parliamentary Secretaries. If the hon. Chief Minister were to look dispassionately at this matter from the administration point of view without having any extraneous

[Shrimati Sita Devi.]

consideration, I am sure he would agree with me that there is no necessity for the office of the Parliamentary Secretary. I, therefore, submit that this Bill should not be made applicable to Parliamentary Secretaries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, under this Bill, Parliamentary Secretaries, Lambardars, Inamdars, Sufedposhes, Zaildars and others will not be disqualified from being Members of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker : May I know if the previous Act is no longer in force ?

Chief Minister : It lapsed when the new Constitution came into force.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The object of this Bill is that the persons holding certain offices of profit should continue to be the Members of the Assembly also. Regarding Parliamentary Secretaries, enough has already been said. It is also a fact that provision for Parliamentary Secretaries has also been made in the Budget and sanctioned by the House. But I would like to say this much that the office of Parliamentary Secretary is not viewed with favour either inside the House or outside. It is generally thought that the Parliamentary Secretaries are without any work and appointments are made to do favours. I have used the word 'favours' which is quite mild; otherwise I would have liked to describe these appointments as bribe. It is, however, not necessary that the Parliamentary Secretaries should actually be appointed even if this Bill is passed. It seeks to empower the Government to do so. Such appointments are, in fact, made to show favours to certain persons, even though no work is taken from them. They get pensions in a way without having to do any work. If the Government pays heed to these words of mine, well and good, and if it is quite insensitive I have no objection.

Again, the schedule attached to this Bill contains the words "Lambardar, Inamdar, Sufedposh or Zaildar whether called by this or any other title." I would strongly urge upon the Government not to revive these dead institutions.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member can discuss only the principle of the Bill at this stage and not its details.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member should confine himself to the principle of the Bill. He is going into details.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What I want to submit, Sir, is that the Government should not give air to the notion of reviving institutions which have already been abolished. It is absolutely wrong to do so. As a matter of principle, we should not create any unfavourable impression in the minds of public by bringing such names in the Bill. If at all the Government

wants to take a retrograde step, it should not try to make a provision in anticipation for prevention of disqualification for membership of the Assembly. This Bill should not apply to those persons who are directly under the district officers and about whom even High Courts have so often declared that they are stock witnesses and unreliable people. Such persons should not be allowed to become Members of the Assembly at least. As a matter of fact, such offices are out of place in a free country. If they are to be retained, their incumbents should not be allowed to become Members of the Assembly. If that is done it would be a betrayal of democracy.

Mr. Speaker : So far, any person holding any office of profit is disqualified from becoming a member of this House. This Bill seeks to remove that disqualification so far as this House is concerned.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I invite the attention of the House to sub-clause 2 of clause 1 of this Bill. According to this Clause, this Bill shall be applicable only to the members of the Provisional Legislature and not to any future legislature. The prevention of disqualification in the case of future legislatures is not covered by this Bill. I think no hon. Member of this House would like that any of our colleagues should be disqualified for holding any of the offices mentioned in the Schedule. This Bill relates only to the sitting Members of this Legislature.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know whether an hon. Member who accepts the office of Zaildar or Sufedposh should be allowed to continue as member ?

Sardar Kartar Singh : The hon. Members would not accept such petty offices.

Sardar Sajjan Singn (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, by bringing in this measure before the House, our Government is proving the truth of the saying that even when a blind man distributes sweets he favours his own people. In my opinion when a man is elected a member of this hon. House he has a large number of duties and responsibilities to discharge. The intention of our Government to increase this burden by bestowing upon Members the offices of Zaildari, Sufaidposhi, Lambardari etc. is, in my humble opinion, not in consonance with sound policy. It is wrong in principle also. I beg to submit, Sir, that the hon. Members should not be allowed to hold such offices. The duty of the hon. Members is to serve the public. It does not add to the dignity of this House and to the prestige of the hon. Members to accept such offices. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has aptly remarked that for an M.L.A. it is not proper even to accept the office of the Deputy Commissioner of a district. It is below his dignity to do so. So, to say that the member.

[S. Sajjan Singh.]

ship of the Assembly can go with such offices as lambardari, zaildari and suffaidposhi, amounts to doing disrespect to the former. When we were not free it was an earnest desire of us all that on achieving independence we would forget such trifling things and would raise our moral and spiritual values. On the other hand, what I find is that no such change for the good has taken place. We are the representatives of the people. As such it is our duty to practise renunciation and to serve the people at large. But on the contrary, we appear to be in the habit of trying to grab everything for ourselves alone.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : Sardar Ji, I think grapes are sour. (*Laughter*).

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I think they are still sweet for the hon. Member, Chaudhri Matu Ram. (*Renewed Laughter*).

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I wish to submit that it is in the fitness of things that the Government should withdraw this Bill. On the other hand, the duty of the hon. Members is to oppose it so that it might not get through. I know that when the Governor-General or other high officials tour the countryside the Chawkidars, Sub-Registrars, Zaildars, Suffaid-poshes, Pensioners and such other persons have to go round with them so that they might not lose their favour. If such duty has to be performed by the hon. Members as well, their prestige is likely to fall low in the eyes of the public. They will also be considered like other officials of the Government. So I consider it inadvisable for the M.L.As. to accept offices of profit under the Government. By so doing we will fall in the estimation of the public. If we do some good job we might add to the dignity of this House. On the other hand if we do some thing which is below the dignity of the hon. Members, the people do not allow us to come out. They say that we are also 'sarkari' persons and that we are no longer the representatives of the people. Sir, I wish to submit that, on principle, the best thing is that we should only do such acts which add to the dignity and prestige of this House and that we should not do other acts. It is a well-known saying that he who earns a good reputation lives and he who gets a bad name dies.

Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is regarding Parliamentary Secretaries. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that on 14th June 1948 there used to be sixteen Parliamentary Secretaries. Then the number of Parliamentary Secretaries was reduced to seven. The third Ministry worked without any Parliamentary Secretaries. What I mean to point out is that the machinery of the Government went on working whatever the number of Parliamentary Secretaries. In my opinion, our

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State stands in no need of Parliamentary Secretaries because only recently the experience of a Ministry for six months shows what popularity a Government can gain by reducing the expenditure. Moreover, the reduction in the expenditure is a direct benefit to the Province. So if my suggestion is acted upon, it will add to the prestige of the Government and it will also give a saving to the public exchequer. Therefore in the interests of the State, the Bill should not have been brought before the House. Government has made a mistake by bringing in this measure. Now it is our duty to oppose this Bill vehemently so that it might not be accepted by this House. If we fail to do so, the public will carry a bad impression about us. They will say that we do not really serve them. The very words 'office of profit' signify that we wish to grab profits and still remain Members of this august House. I am at a loss to understand this policy. Why is there no restriction on this undesirable policy of the Government? If we do not place any restriction on this greed of the hon. Members, we do not earn any respect from the people at large whom we are supposed to serve. My submission is that the hon. Members should practise renunciation. But on the contrary what we find is that there is a race for grabbing more and more money. Under these circumstances, how can we face the public? I am of the opinion that this Bill should not have been placed before the House. Now it falls upon the hon. Members to get it rejected. If we pass this Bill, we will only be earning a bad name. It is a very unprofitable business for us. In view of what I have stated above, I consider it my duty to oppose it. With these words, I wish to draw the attention of the Government and of the hon. Members to the Bill and say that it should not be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

SUB-CLAUSE (2)

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :

I beg to move—

[Mehta Ranbir Singh.]

That in part (i) of the SCHEDULE to sub-clause (2) the words "Inamdar, Sufedposh or Zaildar, whether called by this or any other title" be deleted

That part (ii) of the SCHEDULE to sub-clause (2) be deleted.

That part (v) of the SCHEDULE to sub-clause (2) be deleted

Sir, I have put forward these amendments after giving them a very careful consideration. I have deliberately not omitted the names of 6 P. M. Parliamentary Secretaries or the Private Parliamentary Secretaries.

I have also allowed part (iii) of Clause 2 to stand as it is and have not objected to the inclusion of officers, non-commissioned officers or other Members of the Indian Territorial Force in the Bill. If we carefully consider the matter, we find that the hon. Ministers do some time require Parliamentary or Private Parliamentary Secretaries to help them and I feel that if they are appointed judiciously, the work of the Government can be carried on nicely. But it is a different matter if they are not given any powers. The other day my hon. Friend Shri Virendra dubbed them as '*basta-bardars*' of the hon. Ministers. Since I have no personal experience in this respect, I cannot vouchsafe the correctness of this opinion. I have no objection to their being '*basta-bardars*,' because I feel they have at least the pleasure of enjoying the proximity to the hon. Ministers. Besides, they draw handsome emoluments for holding these offices. Anyhow, I can well understand the necessity of their services to the hon. Ministers in the discharge of their duties. But I fail to see any justification for the appointment of Sufedposhes, Zaildars, and Inamdars by the Government. What useful purpose do they serve in the Revenue Department? I fully realise the necessity of a Lambardar in the matter of collection of revenue. He enjoys certain rights recognised by Government, by virtue of which his office becomes a hereditary appointment. The son of a Lambardar does not inherit this office as a result of any undue favour from the Government but he becomes a Lambardar after the death of his father under some statutory rights. So I have not omitted him as I do not want to deprive him of his right of inheritance. But these Inamdars, Sufedposhes and Zaildars entirely depend upon the sweet will and pleasure of the Government which confers a sort of favour on these people. Sir, through you, I may remind the hon. Chief Minister that when he led the Opposition in the previous Assembly, he was deadly against the appointment of these officials.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : What were his views about these Sufedposhes etc?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : He used to call them as henchmen of the Government.

Sardar Kartar Singh : But now they would be the servants of a national Government and not of aliens as they used to be in the past.

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Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I point out to the hon. Members through you, Sir, that the framers of the Constitution of India, after having spent a lot of money, labour and thought, definitely ruled out the election of a person to a Legislature, who held any office of profit? They have, of course, mentioned the necessary offices of profit, the holders of which were permitted to represent the people in the Legislatures, and the State Governments has been allowed to do away with the disqualification condition under certain circumstances. But the offices of the Sufedposhes, Inamdars, and Zaildars do not figure anywhere. Besides, no hon. Member of this House holds any such office. Why should it be keen to include such office-holders in the Bill and grant them exemption from disqualification? I may point out that the institution of Sufedposhes, Inamdars and Zaildars does no longer exist now. The hon. Members are aware that the Government has rightly done away with it. There is an adage in Punjabi the substance of which in English is that it does not behove a self-respecting person to back out of his plighted word. The Government has already finished this institution. I see no reason why it should try to revive the Sufedposhes, Inamdars and Zaildars, particularly when the whole Congress organization is opposed to their existence on principle. It is a thousand pities that the followers of that great organization who call themselves staunch Congressmen, want to resuscitate this defunct institution of Sufedposhes etc. It is still more a matter of regret that their actions belie their professions. The hon. Members should not ignore the fact that they have to build high traditions in this House. They have to maintain the dignity of the Legislature. They should not do anything which may tarnish the fair name of the State. I would request them not to be a party to the grant of exemption from disqualification to the Sufedposhes etc. from being Members of the Legislature. If the Government feels that it cannot do without the services of Sufedposhes etc, then it should devise ways and means to overcome that difficulty but should refrain from giving them new lease of life. But the question arises whether it is proper and necessary on the part of the hon. Members to be appointed as Sufed poshes. I, for one, do not think my hon. Friends are in its favour. Under the circumstances there seems to be no necessity to place the proposed Bill on the Statute Book. Moreover, the mover of this Bill has not mentioned as to why the hon. Members should not be disqualified for holding the proposed offices of profit. Was there no other way open for the Government to benefit the hon. Members? I think this Bill has been brought forward so that they may be under the complete control of the Government.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No repetition, please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the question of repetition does not arise.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

I only want to know as to what has necessitated the Government to bring in the proposed legislative measure. Was there any administrative difficulty involved? Does the Government think that it is not possible to run the day-to-day administration of the State successfully so long as the hon. Members do not hold offices of Sufedposhes and Zaildars? Is it under the impression that if the hon. Members do not hold the proposed offices it will fail to discharge its duties?

Sardar Kartar Singh : If the hon. Member's suggestion is accepted and the hon. Members are not allowed to hold the proposed offices, may I know from him if he has any objection if instead of appointing them these offices are filled by appointing their relatives?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : There seems to be no such restriction provided in the proposed Bill. There is no provision to stop them from appointing the relations of the hon. Members too, and they are at liberty to make such appointments.

Sardar Kartar Singh : What is the difference then?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : So far as the hon. Members are concerned, it is for them to uphold or lower the dignity of the House, (*Interruptions*). My hon. Friend is fully aware of the policy pursued by the Government in connection with the fire-arms.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Leave that aside.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I do not find any justification on the part of the Government to fill the proposed offices by hon. Members of this House. I really fail to understand as to why Government has thought it fit to appoint Sufedposhes from amongst the hon. Members who are not holding any such offices at present. It appears that immediately after the passage of this Bill into law, Government would start filling the proposed offices by hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker : Not at all.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The proposed offices would be filled in by the Government from amongst the hon. Members at least till the life of this Assembly or in other words till the next elections. If at present we do not find any Lambardars, Inamdars, Sufedposhes and Zaildars from amongst the hon. Members, it does not mean that it is not the intention of the Government to make such appointments after the passage of this Bill into Law. As a matter of fact, Government has brought in this Bill simply with a view to fill such offices from amongst the hon. Members as soon as it is placed on the Statute Book. I am definite about it that that is the main object of the Bill.

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✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is not the object of the Bill. The object is quite clear, that a member should not be disqualified. I would ask the hon. Member to be relevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, it is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the holding of the proposed offices of profit should not be a disqualification for the Membership of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker : Present Members.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, we do not find any reference being made by the mover of the Bill now before the House to the effect that since most of the hon. Members are very efficient, it has, therefore, been felt necessary to bring in such a legislative measure. I do admit that at present there is no Sufedposh or Zaildar from amongst the hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker : There is none.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It is simply because of this fact that there seems to be no justification on the part of the Government to provide such a clause in the proposed Bill. Moreover we do not find any such clause in it under which restrictions could be imposed upon the Government in filling the offices laid down in the Schedule of Clause 2 from amongst the hon. Members, after enacting the proposed legislative measure. I am of the opinion that it is the intention of Government to make these appointments from amongst the hon. Members after the Bill is passed into law. Just as advance payments are made in certain transactions, similarly this Bill is being presented in anticipation with the idea of providing certain hon. Members with offices of profit enumerated in it. Under the circumstances I do not find any justification on the part of the Government to bring in the proposed Bill.

Further, by bringing forward the proposed Bill, it is the intention of the Government to appoint such Members as Parliamentary Secretaries who.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflection, please. I would ask the hon. Member to be fair to other Members.

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; Sir, I wish the hon. Members could also realize this fact.

Mr. Speaker : They do realize.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Then there is no justification on the part of the Government to enact the proposed legislative measure..

Sir, it is not my intention to oppose the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries or the Private Parliamentary Secretaries. My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has in the course of speech made some mention about them.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

By making certain remarks, he has raised the dignity of this House and we should not hesitate to appreciate his remarks so far as this matter is concerned.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Leave that to Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

✓ **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Members to keep his remarks in view and thus act accordingly. I would like to bring this point home to them that they should also realize their responsibilities and thus refrain from accepting any such position which is being forced upon them by the Government. It is, therefore, proper on their part not to support the passage of this Bill into law. If they fail to realize this fact or in other words if the proposed Bill is passed into Law, I am sure they will be a chance to the people outside to say that such legislative measures are being giving enacted in this august House which are not in keeping with its dignity.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think the hon. Member should also raise the dignity of this House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to my hon. Friends that.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Members will take care of themselves.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What I mean to say is that the offices proposed in the Schedule of Clause 2 are intended to be filled for sometime only or in other words till the next elections. I would, therefore, request the hon. Members not to support the passage of this Bill as it is not in keeping with their dignity to take such a step. If they do not support its passage, I am sure it will enable them to maintain their dignity as well as the dignity of this august House.

Now about the Sub Registrars, whether departmental or honorary, as referred to in the proposed Schedule of Clause 2, my hon. Friends are fully aware of the fact that we have already passed a Bill into law to the effect that the appointment of honorary Sub-Registrars should not be made. In spite of all this we find provision in the Schedule of the proposed Bill for the appointment of Sub-Registrars from amongst the hon. Members of this House. So far as this matter is concerned, I would like to know if by "Departmental" it is meant "Government Servant". I also want to know from the Government if there is any necessity to appoint these departmental sub-registrars. I really fail to understand as to what they mean by "Departmental Sub-Registrars". People outside are hurling abuses on the Sub-Registrars and cursing them. Sir, the Government sometime back decided to abolish the institution of Sub-Registrars and honorary magistrates. This work is now being

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carried on by tehsildars and naib-tehsildars satisfactorily. It is, therefore, not in keeping with the dignity of hon. Members to accept these offices of profit. It is no doubt true that the department of Sub Registrars.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please do not discuss this department.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The job of the Sub-Registrars is a lucrative one as their commission in a month amounts to several hundred rupees. If the hon. Members are allowed to accept this office of profit, it will cause great hardship to the present incumbents of the post. Now the present position is.....

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, the post of Sub-Registrar is not at present under discussion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, perhaps Government might be thinking that it is enacting a good legislation but the fact of the matter is that this measure is bound to result in the reduction of income of the Government. Of course, the Government may be able to secure votes from them. This loss of gross income from this department would naturally out-weigh the extent of benefit which the Government may derive under certain circumstances.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Our patience has almost been exhausted by the speech of hon. Member.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The Member has a right to speak so long as he is relevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it a point of order, Sir ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the income of the person who is appointed as Government Treasurer is fairly large. It is an admitted fact that we are a deficit State and in view of our slender resources we should try to tap all sources of income. Under these circumstances, it cannot be imagined why the Government should make an innovation in appointing departmental Sub-Registrars and put an additional burden on the Government Exchequer. Nobody can deny this broad fact that the Members of the Assembly have to perform essential duties of high responsibility in the public interest. Their co-operation is necessary in the administration of the State. If these Members are allowed to accept offices of profit and are appointed as treasurers, they will fail to discharge their vital duty as legislators and such a neglect would be a national disservice. They will then relatively attach more importance and show keen interest in the job from which they derive handsome income and would rather display half-hearted approach to the problems of the State. Most of such Members would not care to attend the meetings of the Assembly and even like to forego the payment of compensatory allowance

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of rupees three hundred per mensem. Consequently, the public money that was spent on the election of these Members would go waste as the task of legislation would no longer remain the cherished object of these Members. In this way, the Government will itself be instrumental in diverting their attention to other channels to the detriment of their own primary function of making laws.

Sardar Ajit Slugh : Are you not devoting your attention to the management of your factories ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, it will be recognized that the Members should wholeheartedly take part in the working of the democracy and attend to their primary functions as legislators. The Government should not cause any interference in their duties as such. In case they are allowed to accept the offices of profit, the influence of all the benefits attached to such offices would be too powerful to resist which will naturally result in diminishing the interest of such Members in their parliamentary activities.

Mr. Speaker : I want to ask one question from the Government. If this Bill is passed it will enable those Members of the House who are lambardars etc., and also those who might become Parliamentary Secretaries to continue to be the Members of this House. The Act will be applicable to the present Members only. Now supposing a person is a lambardar and he wants to seek election when the next general elections are held, will he be debarred from doing so in view of his being a lambardar ?

Chief Minister : An Elections Commissioner has been appointed by the President of India and he will frame the rules and on the lines of those rules a Bill will be drafted which will be passed by the Parliament and the elections will take place according to that Act.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That in part (i) of the Schedule to sub clause (2) the words "Inamdar, Sutedposh or Zaildar, whether called by this or any other title" be deleted.

That part (ii) of the Schedule to subclause (2) be deleted.

That part (v) of the Schedule to subclause (2) be deleted.

Shri Virendra : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. During the course of today's debate, two or three hon. Members referred to the remarks that I had made a few days ago that Parliamentary Secretaries work as file-carriers of the Ministers. Personally speaking, I have no complaint against the Government and I would say that so long as I remained as Parliamentary Secretary I exercised full powers attached to that office.

(Interruption).

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Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Virendra : So I would not like to pass such remarks about the other Parliamentary Secretaries when I exercised full powers attached to that office.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, it is a well-recognized and established principle of the parliamentary system of Government that Members of the Legislatures should not be eligible for offices of profit under the Government as far as possible. Of course, departure has to be made from this principle but it is done in case of only those posts which are connected with the parliamentary work. While being anxious that this principle is not unnecessarily departed from, we also want that the present Members who hold any of the offices mentioned in the Bill should not be disqualified from membership of this House. We would, therefore, appreciate it very much if while replying to the debate on this Bill, the hon. Chief Minister takes the House into confidence and explains as to why the Government cannot accept Shri Mehta's amendment. The House should be informed as to whether any Members are likely to be affected by the amendment in question. If any Members are likely to be affected, we must save them. But we should make it a principle that in future such offices are not to be open to the Members of this Legislature. The more the Members of Legislature avoid accepting such offices, the better will it be for the successful working of democracy. With these words, I support the amendment in question and commend it for acceptance by the House.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment moved by Mehta Ranbir Singh. I am very glad to find that our Government is to-day showing much wisdom in adopting those very good measures which when sponsored by the Unionist Ministry they used to oppose so vehemently, simply because they were then in the Opposition. It is a matter for great pleasure to me, Sir, that not only several Members of this House but that even the Government has started paying homage to the good work done by the Unionist Ministry by following the example set by them in various directions.

I do not see eye to eye with my Friend, Shri Mehta, who has tarred the whole class of dignitaries comprising Sufedposhes, Lambardars, Zaildars and Sub-Registrars with one brush and painted all of them in black. My submission is that it would be unfair to brand the whole class with downright condemnation. No class is entirely free from bad persons. Every class has good as well as bad members. I can say from personal knowledge that most of the persons holding these offices are of unimpeachable honesty and integ-

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city of character and have the interests of the country at heart and are serving the Government faithfully. It would not be fair and wise to deprive all of them of the right of becoming members of the legislatures. Surely if they are doing some other service to the country and the Government, there is no reason why they should not be considered eligible for membership of this House. On the other hand it would also be manifestly unfair to ask those hon. Members of this House who are already holding any such office to give it up. Can the hon. Members of this House be not trusted to perform any other duties or especially the duties connected with these offices in an honest and upright manner? Take for instance the case of the hon. Minister for Land Revenue who has been a Zaildar and is perhaps even now holding the office of the Lambardar of his village. And, Sir, if my information is correct, you yourself are entrusted with the Lambardari of your village. If, Sir, there are honest persons like yourself among the Lambardars, how can the whole class of village dignitaries be dubbed 'dishonest people'? If Mr. Mehta while making his tirade against them, had some particular persons in view, then that is a different matter. So I would request him to revise his opinion about them in the light of what I have said and withdraw his amendment.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Sir, at first I had no mind to speak on this Bill but now in view of the amendment that has been moved and the discussion that has ensued, I would like to say a few words by way of acquainting the House with my view-point.

Though it is long since I had this experience, yet its memory is still fresh in my mind. I was then under detention and was for the time being in the Police Station nearest to my place of residence. While in the Police Station, had a number of opportunities of listening to what conversation took place there. One day a number of Police officers such as the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Inspector while on tour visited the said Police Station. After sometime, I heard the voice of the Sub-Inspector in-charge of the Police Station asking a constable as to whether he had sent for the Lambardar, Sufedposh and the Zaildar of the village or not. The constable replied in the positive. Then the Sub-Inspector roared with fury as to why they had not made their appearance till then and asked him as to who would, in their absence, arrange to supply eggs, meat, milk etc. for the officers, and grass and straw for their horses. (*Laughter*). Believe me, Sir, these were the exact words used by the Sub-Inspector. I had heard a lot about the duties of these dignitaries before, but it was then that for the first time I had an eye-witness account of their real plight. I remember very well the scene when the Lambardar and the Sufedposh came and stood for a long time, asking the forgiveness of the Sub-Inspector for the delay, addressing him repeatedly as 'Hazur', and cowering before him like his domestic servants all the time.

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Mr. Speaker : Lambardars in general are not of this type.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, I think what Mr. Saigal wanted to say was 'Sihaposh' and not 'Sufedposh'. (*Laughter*).

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : My hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh has referred to my black coat and is forgetful of the fact that he himself is also wearing one.

Sir, I was speaking about the Sufedposhes, Lambardars, Zaildars etc., who shiver in their shoes at the very sight of the constables and the head constables. I certainly deprecate the idea of an M. L. A. who is an accredited representative of the people becoming such a petty official. An M. L. A. who is respected by the Chief Minister and the highest of the State officials should in no case be going about to humour small police officials. I know how these Lambardars are treated. They are ordered by the Police Inspectors to produce false witnesses and run errands for them.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : On a point of order, Sir. This is a reflection on some hon. Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not referring to those hon. Members of the Assembly who are Lambardars etc.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : At any rate a Member of the Assembly who is respected by the Ministers and the highest officers should in no case suffer the indignity of supplying chickens to police officers.

Sir, I shall not take much time of the House and shall finish my speech in about a minute's time. I wish that the hon. Members should realise that the posts of Lambardars etc., are not in keeping with their high status and they should not be tempted by them. I have thoroughly studied the fate of the Lambardars during the terms of my imprisonment and am in a position to write a book on it. I know as every one knows that they are regarded as agents or touts of officers and do not enjoy an iota of respect in the public eye. In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should be good enough to withdraw this clause i.e. clause 2 of the Bill under consideration which reduces the high status of an M. L. A. to that of a Lambardar.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I wish to make two or three observations in connection with this Bill. The first thing that I wish to say is that the holding of offices like Lambardari etc., should not be a disqualification for the existing hon. Members of this Assembly. It will certainly be unfair to the existing Members if they are

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disqualified from the membership of the Assembly after the achievement of Independence simply because they happen to be holding posts of profit like the Lambardarship etc.

Secondly, I suggest that such a provision be made by virtue of which the future Members of the Assembly be regarded as disqualified if they accept small offices of profit. I believe that acceptance of small offices like Lambardarship, Sub-Registrarship etc. are not consistent with the dignity of a Member of this august House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does not this suggestion of the hon. Member make this Bill redundant ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Why should the hon. Member bother even if it is so ?

Sir, I was submitting that the present Bill when passed should be applicable to the existing Members of the Assembly and provision should be made either through an Ordinance or an amendment that the future Members of this Assembly would be disqualified in case they accept offices like Sub-Registrarship or Lambardarship.

My third submission is regarding the Parliamentary Secretaries and Private Parliamentary Secretaries. I suggest that as our finances do not permit liberal expenditure, the Government should not appoint these Parliamentary Secretaries until the next session of the Assembly which may or may not be held for the next six months. Of course, I do not object if the Government acquires powers for appointing them by passing this Bill. I only say that there is no necessity of appointing these Secretaries now when the session is over. (*Interruption*).

I was submitting, Sir, that a good deal has been said about Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries. So far as Assembly Sessions are concerned, I agree that because the members of permanent services cannot assist the hon. Ministers inside the House, Parliamentary Secretaries are helpful in handling the files and preparing replies to questions. A long session of the Assembly is about to come to a close and if Parliamentary or Private Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed now, they will have practically no work to do till the next session. In view of the financial condition of this State, I request the Government not to make these appointments at all. So long as the existing rules of work are there, I do not hesitate in saying that the offices of Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries are redundant. On account of the patronage involved in making these appointments, both the giver and the taker of patronage feel that they have bartered away their conscience.

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Sardar Piara Singh : Is the hon. Member saying it as a result of his experience ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Yes, I am saying it on the basis of my experience. When I was Parliamentary Secretary, I felt that I had killed my conscience for five hundred rupees a month.

Sardar Kartar Singh : But still the hon. Member did not leave that job.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I admit that I did not leave it for greed of money but I want to save all the hon. Members from falling into that trap. On the basis of my experience as Parliamentary Secretary and also as a Minister, I am in a position to say that if the idea is to enhance the dignity of this House or its Members, it is no use creating these posts. If work demands it, I have no objection to there being even ten Ministers. At one stage it was proposed to give the status of Cabinet Ministers to the Parliamentary Secretaries and Deputy Ministers. If that were done, the lower salary would not mean any difference in their status and functions. I would not oppose the increase of expenditure on these posts even by ten times if the interest of work demanded it, but it is not fair and proper to make such appointments merely to pay certain salaries to some persons. For these reasons I request the hon. Chief Minister to use his power of appointing Parliamentary Secretaries under this Bill, only if there is work to be done by them. He should not do so merely for the sake of pleasing a few hon. Members.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (Hindi) : Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh said that on account of the patronage involved in the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries, they as well as the Ministers felt that they had bartered away their conscience. He also suggested that in view of the weak financial position of the State the Government should do without Parliamentary Secretaries.

Sri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Sir. The question at present is not whether the Parliamentary Secretaries should be appointed or not. We have to see whether the exemption under this Bill should be granted to the Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mr. Speaker : He is only replying to what was stated by another hon. Member.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I only wish to submit that Bills of this nature have already been passed in other State Assemblies. Our Prime Minister stated in the Parliament.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Leave that aside. The proceedings of other Assemblies should not be referred to.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : If we have great regard for the financial condition of the State, there should be only five Ministers, no Parliamentary Secretaries and the compensatory allowance of Members should be reduced to one hundred and fifty rupees per mensem.

Some hon. Members : Agreed.

Sardar Swaran Singh : We presume that the Chief Whip is making this offer on behalf of the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : At the same time I wish to submit that those hon. Members who run to Delhi every other day with a view to dislodge this Ministry.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No such remarks please.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It was said that a lambardar should not be allowed to become a Member of this House. I wish to say for the information of my hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal that Chaudhri Chhotu Ram who was an illustrious Member of the United Punjab Assembly was a lambardar. If lambardars become members of this House, they give useful advice to the Government in matters of administration and prove a useful part of the Government machinery. It was not fair to say that they should be debarred from becoming members of this House. You know, Sir, that the district officials such as Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Extra Assistant Commissioner and others have no direct connection with the villages. (Noise).

An hon. Member : Question be now put.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (Hindustani) : Sir,...(Noise and thumping of tables).

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Member to be dignified.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is it not a reflection on the hon. Member? How could you know that he would not be dignified?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member must have seen for himself that there is continued interruption and thumping of tables. Of course, when there is a reasonable occasion, I can allow that, but it does not look proper to continue such a thing. I am pained to see that the hon. Members are not keeping up the dignity of the House. I would request the hon. Members not to interrupt when a member is making a speech and to see that the dignity and decorum of the House are not violated in any way.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, I am not displeased to hear any dignified or undignified word used by you. I assure you that you will not hear from me even a single word which would be unbecoming to the dignity of this House. But

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the thing is that when a poor man's stomach is hit, he cannot help crying. Ours is a poor State. It is on the verge of starvation and we seek the help of the Central Government. But when we see the deeds of this Government, we have to hang our heads in shame. For the last three years, the appointments of Parliamentary Secretaries are being criticised. No session has passed without severe criticism of these offices by the hon. Members, one and all. They have been trying to know as to what are the duties of Parliamentary Secretaries and whether they are of any use to this poor State or not. I know from my experience of Ministership what work they do. I was in charge of Public Works Department. There was always trouble regarding the work that was to be assigned to them. On the one hand, the Secretaries to Government insisted that files should not be shown to Parliamentary Secretaries and legally their position was strong. On the other hand, the Parliamentary Secretaries insisted on getting good offices and good residences. Besides salaries, they drew as much travelling allowance as they liked. Besides this, there was the question of expenditure on their offices, their telephones and their peons. How can this infant State bear all this heavy burden? The hon. Members of this House feel that these offices are unnecessary; public also feels the same. This thing can be verified by holding a gallop poll, as was done by the daily Tribune sometime back. The Government can invite the opinion, on this matter, of the intelligentsia of the State such as barristers, judges, principals and headmasters. They should be asked whether the office of Parliamentary Secretary is necessary or not. Our hon. Ministers are very particular about small things such as the usage of the word, 'Shri' before their names. But they do not want to discard greater evils which were introduced in our system of Government by the British. The Government should now arrange a gallop poll to see whether the public wants the retention of these offices or not. This Session is shortly going to be over and for the next six or seven months there will be no Session. During this period, the Government can ascertain the opinion of the public and even of the Government of India in this matter. The fact, however, is that these offices are given as presents to certain hon. Members in order to ensure their support.

Mr. Speaker : I knew you would say that.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : These Parliamentary Secretaries are not of any help to the State nor are they of any use to the people. The only purpose they serve is of adding to the power of the Ministers. The Chief Whip has stated that some of the members go to Delhi. But do the Ministers also not run to Delhi for consultations even on minor matters?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reference to party affairs please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, my submission is that we should not deceive the public. On the one hand we have increased the abiana of the

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poor farmers and we are daily putting the burden of more and more taxes on the poor. On the other hand we are not cutting down expenditure on such items to which I am referring. Of course, the Chief Minister has constituted the Resources and Retrenchment Committee to bring down expenditure on administration. But I appeal to the Government to at least cut down this expenditure immediately before any report from the Committee is submitted. Our Chief Minister is well known for his sympathies with the poor and for his broadmindedness. I appeal to him to save the expenditure that is being spent on the Parliamentary Secretaries. This will have a good effect upon the people of the State.

Hon. Members : Question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the question be now put.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it." This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (i) of the Schedule to sub-clause (2) the words "Inamdar, Sufedposh or Zaildar, whether called by this or any other title" be deleted.

That part (ii) of the schedule to Sub clause (2) be deleted. That part (v) of the schedule to Sub-clause (2) be deleted.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Noes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

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CLAUSE 1.

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister : I move—

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be passed.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, the views expressed by most of the Members reveal the fact that it is the desire of this House that the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries should be abolished because they are an unnecessary burden upon the resources of the State. Even apart from the financial aspect of this question it is quite evident that they are of no use to the people and the State. They function only in the matter of making recommendations for appointments and such other things. It is a sad state of affairs that an ordinary citizen cannot get anything done in the ordinary course and he has to approach some Parliamentary Secretary or some Minister for every little work. The Parliamentary Secretaries appear to be busy in making such recommendations for their favourites and there seems to be no other work for them. They get salaries and travelling allowances for nothing. The only work they appear to be doing is that which I have stated above and I wonder why the Government does not think of doing away with these posts which are, as a matter of fact, useless. Anyhow, even if the Government wishes to keep these posts in spite of the wishes of the most of the hon. Members, I would suggest that there should be an election for these posts, so that only able persons may get the opportunity of getting elected to these posts. The present method only brings in henchmen to these posts.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I wish to express my views upon this important question which is before

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the House for consideration. Many of my hon. Friends have already given expression to their views thereon. The vehemence with which most of them have made criticism is quite evident. But one thing which surprised me is the silence on the part of the Government in the face of such criticism. Has the Government no courage to come out with a reply to this criticism? Has it so little respect for the opinion of this House that it prefers to keep mum? This is a fundamental question to which the Government is morally bound to give an answer. This question concerns the power and prestige of this House and so it has every right to demand a satisfactory answer to it.

As far as the Members are concerned, they are in duty bound to point out the defects and shortcomings of even the most influential persons both inside and outside the House without any fear or favour. If it is within their knowledge that certain officers indulge in corruption, they should make bold to tell it. The names of such persons who take bribes should be told openly. If any of the officers is in the habit of doing favouritism, he should be denounced outright. It is only in this manner that we can do our duty.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No repetition please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am saying that the duty of the hon. Members of this House is to spare none who indulges in favouritism, corruption etc., even if he be a Governor. Those Members who do their duty are strong. They cannot come under the influence of big officers because they never stoop down to seek favours themselves. A Member who is in the habit of seeking favours for himself cannot criticize officers who have obliged him in so many ways. He may have requested many officers for the favour of appointing his friends as lambardars etc. or dismissing some of his enemies. In such cases, the reports are generally sent by Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors to Inspectors and Superintendents of Police. The Deputy Commissioners have to make such appointments or dismissals. Now if a Member has to get his work done he will have to approach so many officers. It is only after getting their obligation that he can succeed in having some advantages for his friends. In my opinion, such an hon. Member cannot criticize any of these officers simply because he is under their obligation. He has no moral courage to speak the truth against those officers whose favours he sought so many times. Such Members cannot discharge their duties as M. L. A.s in an honest way. How can they come out with an open criticism of the corrupt officials? Sir, I was submitting that the dignity and the honour of this august House demand that the Members of this Legislature should be of such integrity that they do not behave obsequiously either under stress of circumstances or for any personal advantage. It is possible that an hon. Member may not be prepared to

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behave servilely but under duress he may have to seek the favour of a Sub-Inspector for making such good remarks in the log book as would be helpful to the Member in continuing to hold the job of a sufedposh or inamdar or a zaildar. How ridiculous then the position of that Member would be, when on the floor of the House he may consider it disgraceful to receive even the Deputy Commissioner of a district. Mr. Speaker, this is not a hypothetical proposition. Situations of this kind are bound to arise if the holders of office, as enumerated in the amendment of my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh, are granted exemption from disqualification for being elected to the State Legislature. This is a matter which requires careful consideration at the hands of the Government.

Then my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has remarked that this Bill may be passed for the benefit of those at least who already hold these offices of profit but for future it should not become a permanent feature. I do not see eye to eye with this observation. Even the hon. Chief Minister has not thought it proper to make a reply to this suggestion. We are not aware of his intentions in this matter, whether he agrees to the suggestion of my hon. Friend or not. I would again request the hon. Premier to think over the matter dispassionately whether any useful purpose would be served by bringing this Bill on the Statute Book. This Bill will bring his Government into disrepute. May I ask whether it is the intention of the Government that by passing this legislation it wants to convert the Members of the Assembly into dummy Members, who should never have the courage to express an independent opinion. I can very well understand the object of this measure. It can be made use of at a time when Members of the Government party may be in a rebellious mood and want to throw out the Government. Then those Members who are holding offices of profit like the sufedposhes, inamdars etc., would be gagged from expressing their independent views about the Government through different agencies. Out would go demi-official letters from the hon. Ministers to the Deputy Commissioners, Financial Commissioners, Superintendents of Police etc. for bringing pressure to bear upon such Members so that the Government of the day may continue undisturbed. I may point out that legislation of this nature should not be passed now when we have attained full-fledged freedom. We are no longer a slave country and therefore we should think like free people and should not give a new lease of life to defunct institutions like the sufedposhes etc. I could well understand the necessity of such legislation if it had been brought forward during the British regime. The British Government had created similar innumerable agents who helped it in the continuance of its rule. Such agents at that time were dubbed by the nationalist-minded public as 'jholi-chuks' or henchmen of the British Government. The officer class at that time used to say that it was their unpleasant duty to do unpleasant things because they were

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in the pay of the British Government. But the real henchmen were those sufedposhes, inamdars, zaildars, etc., who did unpatriotic things for a small pittance. So may I ask the Government if by passing this measure wants it to create this impression in the minds of the public that it is going to raise an army of agents on the British lines to sustain it? This line of action is undemocratic. In this age, when popular Governments are at the helm of affairs, an endeavour should be made by the Government to secure the goodwill of the public for whose benefit the administration is run. But what does this Bill indicate? It shows that an attempt is being made by the Government to create a class of henchmen who would stand by it through thick and thin because they would be dependent on the favours of the Government. I, therefore, very respectfully submit to the House that for God's sake it should desist from creating those conditions in the country which existed during the British regime. Its dignity and self-respect demand that it should act in a manner, which may find favour with the people at large. The dignity of the House is a dignity par excellence. It must be kept aloft. Again, when we have nothing to be afraid of and no favour can tempt us to deviate from the path of truth, why should we then behave cringingly? A person can only be upright if he is above temptation. So if the holders of offices as are enumerated in the Bill are allowed to enter the Legislature, can any one for a moment think that they would hold independent views? They would dance to the tune of district authorities. I would, therefore, say at the risk of repetition that if this Bill is passed, it will be tantamount to tarnishing the fair name of the State because the people would think that the legislators of the Punjab Assembly constitute a class of sycophants. Consequently, our heads would hang in shame and we will not be able to show our faces to the people of other States. I may point out that now our State is entering into a new phase of life after the attainment of freedom. We should get rid of out-moded ideas. We should have lofty and refreshing ideas which may help us to bring about re-orientation in the life of the State. We should make sure that no person whose integrity and self-respect are doubtful, becomes a member of this Assembly. I would request the hon. Ministers to realise the position of a Member who is at the mercy of a Sub-Inspector who can deprive the former of the office of a sufedposh etc. by giving a black remark in his log book.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. member is indulging in repetition. The same idea is being repeated although the wording is different every time.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Then, Sir, taunts were hurled at an ex-Minister that after laying down his office, he had to appear before a Naib Tehsildar in connection with the case of his client. I don't consider it disgraceful if he had to do so for the sake of public service. Lawyer's profession is a noble profession.

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✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave that subject aside.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Well, Sir, what I want to drive at is that these lambardars who receive 'panjotra' for collecting land revenue and the sufed-poshes and zaildars who are respectively in receipt of Rs. 100 and Rs. 300 per annum from Government for their services do not possess representative character as they depend upon the favours of the Government.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is wasting the precious time of this August House by advancing old and stale arguments and this really tells upon the dignity of the House.....

Mr. Speaker : Order, order !

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Members are at liberty to draw your attention to any infringement of the Rules committed by an hon. Member. The hon. Member has infringed the Rules not once but thrice. (*Interruptions*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the hon. Member not to assume the duties of the Speaker.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I wish to point out is that if the proposed Bill is passed into law, it will seriously affect the hon. Members of this House. It goes without saying that the eyes not only of the people of our State but also of the whole of the country are fixed on us. They are keen to see as to how we conduct ourselves in the matter of enacting legislation in this august House. My hon. Friend Shri Durga Chand Kaushish has in the course of his speech pointed out that the people outside the State.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I called the hon. Member to order several times because he was again and again irrelevant. To refer to some remarks made by another hon. Member is not relevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Durga Chand Kaushish has mentioned that the people outside the State.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I do not want it. It is not relevant. The hon. Member is referring to some remarks of Shri Durga Chand Kaushish. All this is irrelevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. May I know if the Speaker can without allowing an hon. Member to complete the sentence call him to order ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order !

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, points of order should be rationed.
(*Laughter*).

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I cannot defy your ruling. Since I must obey it, I will not indulge in any repetition. But all the same I cannot do without saying this that people outside our State have formed a very bad opinion about the state of affairs prevailing at present in our State. (*A Voice:* No, they hold a very good opinion). They think that things are not done in our State as they ought to have been done and that the way in which things are being done is not quite in keeping with the dignity of the Government. The fundamental issue, therefore, is whether hon. Members should be independent or should work under petty officers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is again irrelevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I wish to submit is that there seem to be only two alternatives left before the hon. Members and they will have to choose either of the two. The first alternative is that the hon. Members should give an impression to the people outside this House in our State that they can be neither intimidated, nor threatened nor won over by any financial considerations. The other alternative is that the hon. Members by accepting the offices of profit can be threatened, intimidated and can also be won over by financial considerations. The fundamental question is that the hon. Members should not stoop low to accept these offices of profit and thus uphold the dignity of the House. As I have already stated, the people outside the State possess a very bad impression about us.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a Point of Order, Sir. My hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh inadvertently remarked that 'you are living in a fool's paradise'. He should be asked to withdraw these remarks.

Mr. Speaker : Did the hon. Member use these words in reference to the Chair?

Sardar Ajit Singh : No, Sir.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Shri Bhim Sen Sachar should withdraw that insinuation towards the Chair.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I do not consider it proper to reply to all the objections that have been raised by my hon. Friends during the course of their speeches as I think an attempt has been made to drive the question beyond the definite issue. I have been exercising self-restraint and did not like to interrupt the hon. Members thinking that I will have my say at the time of replying to the debate. Sir, I knew it before-hand that my hon. Friends will indulge in off-hand criticism and make irrelevant speeches.

PROVISIONAL LEGISLATURE (PREVENTION OF
DISQUALIFICATION) BILL

(18) 85

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I have more than once ruled that such questions should not be referred to here.

Chief Minister : Sir, I will tell that the objections raised by my hon. Friends were irrelevant and beside the point. When I made the first motion that the Bill be taken into consideration, I stated that removal of disqualification of Members had to be made in accordance with the new Constitution. In order to achieve that object, the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Ordinance was promulgated. This Bill is intended to replace that Ordinance with certain minor modifications. This Bill has been brought forward to declare certain offices of profit under the Government of India or the Government of the State to be the offices the holding of which shall not disqualify the holders thereof from being Members of the House. An argument advanced by my friend that the Members of the Assembly will be afraid of the Sub-Inspector of Police does not at all hold good. At present, there are two categories of Members in the House, those who were returned on Congress ticket and those belonging to Panthic party. Such Members were nominated by the respective organisations after adjudging their suitability to represent the party in the best interests of the people. It so happens that sometime wrong decisions are taken and at this stage I find that some of the hon. Members who were returned on Congress ticket have now left the Congress Party and are sitting on the Opposition benches. If they had been in any other country, they would have certainly resigned their seats in the Assembly.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, is it relevant to discuss party matters in the House ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is irrelevant.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am not referring to any party matters and if my hon. Friend had shown patience and considered carefully what I have been saying, he would not have raised this objection. I was saying that when this Bill is passed, it will not disqualify any Member of this House from holding the office of lambardar and sufedposh. In the year 1946 when general elections were held, such Members were returned to Assembly who were nominated by the different parties. This Bill has now been introduced in the House with the object of removing the disqualifications of the Members of this House to hold certain offices of profit under the Government. It has been said that the object underlying this Bill is that the Government wants to appoint parliamentary secretaries and the meagre finances of the province do not justify this course. But I am sorry to say that the Government is being exploited every time on the common plea of poor finances of his State and there is a tirade of criticism for whatever it does in the interest of State. Perhaps my hon. Friends do not seem to know that the

[Chief Minister]

parliamentary secretaries also if appointed would not be disqualified to hold that office of profit by virtue of this Bill. When any powers vest with the Government under any law, it does not necessarily mean that such powers will be utilised. But before appointing any Member to an office of profit, the Government will have to keep in view the financial implications involved in it. I think it would have been proper if such an objection had been raised at the time when a similar measure was placed on the Statute Book long ago. Without taking much time of the House, I would like to inform the hon. Members that if I think it necessary to appoint Parliamentary Secretaries, nothing can debar me from doing so. Similarly, if I think that I should expand the Cabinet, I will put before the House such a proposal and I think the House will certainly approve of my suggestion in the interest of the State. Apart from this, if I consider it necessary to increase the salaries of the Ministers, I will put forward an amending bill which I hope will be passed by the House. But so far as the appointment of Ministers is concerned, it does not come within the scope of this Bill as the person is not deemed to hold an office of profit under the Government if he is a Minister. Sir, the question that is now before this House is not a new one, so far as the legislatures of other democratic countries are concerned. In Britain, for example, this question arose more than 200 years ago, when the Members of a tribunal were returned to the Parliament and it was decided to remove the disqualification in their case in order to allow them to continue to serve the country as Members of that tribunal, even though it amounted to holding places of profit under the Crown. So what I mean to emphasise is that the general rule of regarding the holding of an office of profit a disqualification for membership of a legislature, has never been so strictly enforced and adhered to as some of my hon. Friends here seem to imagine. Even in Britain, which is the oldest country having a parliamentary system of Government, there are as many as 62 Ministerial posts, and sometime even more, which are held by Members of the Parliament besides the Ministers, and which consist of Parliamentary Secretaries, Under Secretaries and so on. The duties of the holders of these offices are not confined to parliamentary work. But despite the fact that they have been entrusted with other office work connected with the various Ministries, they can sit and take part in the voting in the House of Commons. So, Sir, if we want to follow the conventions and practices of other democratic countries, I think there should be no objection to the exercise of powers by this House to remove the disqualification in suitable cases, where the House thinks that the services of the Members concerned are needed for some other important work in the interest of the State. Legislatures in other countries of the world have used these powers of removing disqualification without much ado since a very long time. It is no doubt true that the practice of removing this disqualification is not

[Chief Minister]

to be misused and offices of profit are not to be distributed among the Members with a view to influencing the voting in the House. But, Sir, my submission is that such things cannot happen in the modern times, when party system forms an integral part of the democratic system of Government. If there are well-organized parties, and in fact it is a pre-requisite for the successful working of democracy, and the party in power, as is always the case, commands the support of the majority, I wonder how the question of trying to influence the voting can arise in connection with any issue, when it is an indubitable fact that all matters are discussed and decided in the party meeting before they are brought in the House. My Friends who have been arguing on these lines have overlooked this vital thing in their anxiety to criticize the Government. So far as the present parliamentary practices are concerned, there is hardly any scope at all for independent voting on any issue in any legislature. By 'independent', I mean independent of the directives of the party. It is for this reason that despite so much criticism and speeches of the Oppositionists, the Government carries the day in every matter. (Cheers.)

Apart from this, Sir, to say or to suggest by implication that the Members of this House are venal and their votes can be bought, is the meanest and the vilest thing to do that I can think of. This is worse than even self-condemnation. There cannot be a more abominable act than that some members of this House should make this allegation against others that they are corrupt and dishonest people, hankering after pecuniary gains and paltry profits. With what face will any of the Members of this Assembly appear before the people or M.L.A.s. of the other States, when they come to know that some of us are so venal that their votes can be purchased? So far as I think, Sir, every member of this hon. House is to be regarded as honest and upright having independence of mind to think and decide things for himself regardless of extraneous considerations and influences. I have the greatest respect and regard for every hon. Member of this House, because I have a very high opinion of every one of them (cheers) and I cannot imagine any one of them can stoop low.

Then, Sir, this Bill has been brought forward in order to remove the disqualification of Members who are already holding what can be considered as an office of profit. The provisions of this Bill apply to the present Members and not to the future. So no objection whatsoever can be taken to it on any ground. It is not right and proper to import extraneous matters into this Bill or to think that it has been brought with some ulterior motives.

So far as the question of giving work to the Parliamentary Secretaries is concerned, I can assure the House that whenever they are appointed, they will be given work to do, not merely parliamentary work but other office duties too.

I feel, Sir, the Government would have been failing in its duty, if this

[Chief Minister]

Bill to remove the disqualification of the existing Members had not been brought before the House, because otherwise in pursuance of some provision of the Constitution, they would cease to be Members of the House since its promulgation. With these words, I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Provisional Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill be passed.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

EAST PUNJAB UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh): I introduce the East Punjab University (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Revenue : I move—

(i) That the East Punjab University (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

1. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish
2. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal
3. Shri Virendra
4. Chaudhri Sher Singh
5. Sardar Sarmukh Singh
6. Shri Dev Raj Sethi
7. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang
8. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh

(ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

(i) That the East Punjab University (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

1. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish
2. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal
3. Shri Virendra
4. Chaudhri Sher Singh
5. Sardar Sarmukh Singh
6. Shri Dev Raj Sethi
7. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang
8. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh.

(ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, before saying anything about this amending Bill, I want to remind this hon. House of the time when the principal Act was under discussion in the year 1947 and the speeches that were then made. You must be remembering, Sir, that Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish had at that time made a great speech, urging upon the Government the necessity of allowing fullest consideration and discussion on the measure, as he regarded it of very great importance and you had to interrupt him many a time before he finished. He had again and again complained that the Government was trying to rush through a measure of great public importance but the result was as usual next to nothing.

वही ढाक के तीन पात ।

हुयी हाक के तीन पात ।

Sir, what I want to emphasise is that there is need for giving careful consideration and thought even to this amending Bill, which is also a very lengthy one as many hon. Members will have constructive suggestions to offer.

It is always better to give fullest consideration to every legislative measure 8 P.M. before it is put on the Statute Book, so that the Government may not have to bring amending Bills to rectify the shortcomings that might have overlooked owing to hasty consideration. To avoid this sort of unnecessary duplication of work, it is necessary that this Bill be subjected to a close scrutiny. I am glad to find that the Government is realizing the need for this and is referring the Bill to a select committee. This will save the time of the House and ensure that the Bill when passed is free from shortcomings. In such matters it is wrong for the hon. Leader of the House to appoint only yes-men on such important committees; it is definitely not consistent with the principles of democracy. He should have seen whether there are other Members in the House who though not subject to the whip of his party are in a position to render useful service. I can assure the House that if some one of us were asked to serve on the select committee, he would not only have given constructive suggestions for improving the University but would not have charged any travelling allowance for purposes of attending meetings of this committee.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that the Members proposed are not up to the mark?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Yes Sir, the Members proposed for the select committee are not up to the task and the Government will be obliged to bring in another amending Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can only ask for deletion from or addition to the proposed select committee.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would have given notice of a regular amendment only if I knew that the names were to be proposed today. It is rather strange that the names have been proposed all of a sudden. However, I am not in favour of omitting the name of any hon. Member from the membership of the select committee.

Mr. Speaker : I will waive the condition of time in the case of the hon. Member. He can even now bring in an amendment.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I mean to say that if the hon. Chief Minister, who at this time is not present in the House, agrees to increase the number of members, I would like to suggest the addition of only one name. I have no hesitation in saying that this new member will prove very useful in setting right the defective legislation and will not be a burden on the exchequer as he would be prepared to charge no travelling allowance. But I have fears whether such a sane advice will find favour with this Government.

Sir, the second thing that I wish to submit is that whereas the Bill contains ordinary provisions like the change of name of the University from the East Punjab University to the Punjab University, it also contains some very important provisions and they require very careful consideration. For example, clause 4 which deals with the purposes of the University is very important. We should do our utmost to bring the standard of our University at par with the standards of other Universities in the country as has been stated in the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill. A good deal can be learnt from teaching and residential universities like the Benares University. I have personal knowledge of the working of the University as I have been there for two or three years and am in a position to say that it manages its colleges and hostels in a wonderful way. There the vice-chancellor is a whole-time elected man and this tradition has worked very well. The working of that University considerably differs from that of this University. Here the University has affiliated to it Government Colleges as also the private Colleges. The Government Colleges and their hostels are run by the Government and the private Colleges by the private people. It was strange to find in an answer to a question the other day when the hon. Chief Minister said that the Government had no responsibility towards the private Colleges and that they must be totally financed by private managements. However, it means that there are two different sets of Colleges managed by different bodies which are affiliated to this university. But the trouble is that the fixation of tuition fee is controlled and all colleges are subject to uniform rules under the University Act.

Whenever some law is made applicable to a college or some other institution, it is the duty of the Government to examine the financial aspect of the matter and to give aid to the institution concerned, if necessary. Clause 17 of the Bill reads thus :—

To clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 27 of the said Act after the word "education" the following words shall be added, namely :—
"for the scale of fees fixed by the College is not lower than the minimum, if any, prescribed by the University".

It is clear that some restrictions are going to be imposed in the matter of tuition fees chargeable by the Colleges. Before any restriction is imposed, it is necessary to study the financial aspect of the measure. It would be better if some such person is taken on the select committee who can assist the Government in ensuring that the Bill is so framed that it does not defeat the very object for which it is intended. If some person has started a private college in a rural area in spite of the difficulties which have to be faced in such an enterprise, he should not be discouraged by the Government. I shall therefore request the Government to take such person in the select committee. If, however, it is intended to discourage such enterprises, the Government is at liberty to act as it pleases. I beg to submit that the Government should work for the benefit of the State as a whole. It should not aim at benefiting only one section or class of people. We should realise our duty. So far as I am concerned, I am not interested in my compensatory or travelling allowance but consider it my duty to point out the difficulties of those persons, whom the Government ignores altogether. The Government should not be narrow-minded. It should be liberal enough to act for the benefit of everybody. The Bill before the House is a commendable measure. After some amendments it will become still more useful. It should, however, be passed in such a shape that another amending Bill has not to be passed after six months. There is no harm in consulting a friend when one lacks judgement himself. I do not mean to say that the Government lacks judgement, but I am unable to understand why it should be opposed to the inclusion of some other person in the select committee.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

That the following Members be added to the Select Committee :

Chaudhri Lahri Singh.

Sardar Swaran Singh.

Sardar Ujjal Singh.

Thakur Beli Ram.

[S. Kartar Singh]

I support the Bill, which has been brought before the House by the hon. Minister for Education. I only wish that in addition to the names proposed by him the names of Chaudhri Lahri Singh, Sardar Swaran Singh, Sardar Ujjal Singh and Thakur Beli Ram are also be included in the select committee to which the Bill is to be referred. I have made this suggestion because I feel that it is a very important measure and the report which the select committee has to submit should be prepared after a thorough examination of the subject. Some such persons should also be included in the select committee, who have experience of University affairs and have made their contribution to the cause of education. They will prove useful Members of the select committee.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the following members be added to the Select Committee.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh.

Sardar Swaran Singh.

Sardar Ujjal Singh.

Thakur Beli Ram.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the Bill now before the House is really a very useful measure. I find it stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that it has been necessary to bring forward this amending Bill in order to 'bring it in line with similar provisions made in the incorporating Acts of other Universities in India'. It is necessary to remove any short-comings and defects and to bring our University at par with modern Universities. Undoubtedly the powers of the Vice Chancellor should be defined and other necessary provisions should also be made, but one thing which I am sorry to find is the provision relating to the right of vote given to the graduates of Punjab (Pakistan) University at Lahore. The Government has acted in a very narrow-minded manner in this matter. In our new Constitution, every adult has been given the right to vote and even form a Government. In the Bill under consideration, it is laid down in clause 10 that—

'Any person who before the year 1948 graduated in any Faculty of the university of the Panjab (Pakistan) at Lahore shall, on application made, be entitled to have his name entered on the Register of Graduates of Punjab University on payment of such fees and on such conditions as may be prescribed by the Regulation of the University: Provided that he graduated not less than five years before registration.

This provision is not in keeping with the spirit of modern times. Can it be said that the graduates are not capable of electing fellows to the

University? If we can allow the election of our legislators by adult franchise, why can't we give the right of vote to all graduates? There are legislators who have not got even school education, not to speak of university education. It is therefore not understandable why all graduates should not be given the right of vote. I think we should act most cautiously in educational matters because education is the foundation of our society. I, therefore, hope that the select committee, while considering the Bill, will keep before it wider interests and not narrow considerations.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*):
Sir, I move—

That the name of Mehta Ranbir Singh be added to the names already proposed for the Select Committee.

The names proposed by the hon. Minister for Education include the names of the three hon. Members who were elected last year for fellowship of the University Senate. A fourth Member was also elected at that time. He is the president of the managing committee of a college. His name has not now been included in the names proposed for the select committee, simply because he happens to be in the Opposition. We did not expect such a thing from the Education Minister at least and then Mehta Ranbir Singh is already working as president of a college and he is also a law graduate. Such an educated person should not have been excluded from this select committee simply because of his connection with the Opposition Party.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang: Would Mehta Ranbir Singh have no objection if he is taken on the select committee?

Sardar Bachan Singh: It would have been better if this question had been put by the hon. Minister for Education instead of my hon. friend. Mehta Ranbir Singh has authorised me to say that, if the purpose is to improve the Bill in the real sense, he would not only co-operate with the Government in this respect, but would also not draw any travelling allowance for attending the meetings of the select committee.

I would like to say one thing more. Sub-clause 11 of clause 7 provides:

Where by reason of illness, leave, or any other cause a temporary vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice-Chancellor a substitute shall be appointed by the Chancellor from among the Fellows of the University.

I am, as a matter of principle, against the appointments being made by the Chancellor for offices which should be filled in by election. I, therefore, submit that instead of providing for appointment being made by the Chancellor, the office of the Vice Chancellor should be filled in by election.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the following members be added to the Select Committee—

1. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
2. Sardar Swaran Singh.
3. Sardar Ujjal Singh.
4. Thakur Beli Ram.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the name of Mehta Ranbir Singh be added to the list of members of the Select Committee.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

(i) That the the East Punjab University (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish
2. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal
3. Chaudhri Sher Singh
4. Sardar Sarmukh Singh
5. Shri Dev Raj Sethi
6. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang
7. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh
8. Chaudhri Lahri Singh
9. Sardar Swaran Singh
10. Sardar Ujjal Singh
11. Thakur Beli Ram
12. Mehta Ranbir Singh
13. Shri Virendra.

(ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be five.

The motion was carried.

NEW TOWNSHIPS (STREET LIGHTING AND WATER SUPPLY) FEES BILL.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water supply Fees Bill.

Minister for Rehabilitation : I move—

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water supply) Fees Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water supply) Fees Bill be taken into consideration at once.

✓ Before we proceed with the discussion of the Bill I want to warn the members of the House that they should be careful in their remarks about the persons, whether officials or non-officials. Today when discussing the previous motion certain members made remarks against persons who were not present in the House and who could not defend themselves. I hope hon. Members would refrain from passing any such remarks in future.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I am surprised to see this Bill. If it had been introduced by some other hon. Minister who is not a refugee, I would not have been surprised.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10. a.m. on Friday, 31st March

1950

Qaumi Press, Jullundur

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

31st March 1950

Vol. I—No. 19

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 31st March 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I find that there are so many short notice questions that the whole hour would be taken up by those questions. I think it would be better if we straightaway proceed with short notice questions.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Out of these there are many questions notice of which had been given some time back.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Many short notice questions appearing on the list are very unimportant questions. While, formerly questions on the policy of Government were put and replied to at short notice, now I find that very unimportant matters are raised through short notice questions, so much so that if a person is arrested, a short notice question is put.

Sardar Bachan Singh : As nothing is done in the ordinary way, the necessity of giving notices of short notice questions becomes unavoidable.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I think it would be better if half an hour is given to ordinary notice questions and the other half hour is devoted to short notice questions.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NEW ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS GIVEN AT MOGA.

***1761. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any new electricity connections have recently been given at Moga ;
- (b) the number of such new connections.
- (c) the procedure followed in selecting the parties to whom connections are sanctioned ;

[S. Rattan Singh Gill.]

- (d) whether connections are given in the chronological order of applications received ; if so, the serial numbers of the applications that have been sanctioned for new connections ;
- (e) the total number of applications received, sanctioned and pending ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes.

- (b) Since the date of taking over of the Moga Electric Supply Undertaking by the Electricity Branch (20th February 1949), 31 new connections for domestic supply have been given.
- (c) After an application is received for supply of power, action to give supply is taken in the chronological order of the application; and connection is given in the chronological order of the Test Report.
- (d) Yes (See attached list of connections given).

Domestic Industrial

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|---|
| (e) Applications received. | 617 | 94 | (Including applications for change-in-name and re-connections). |
| Applications sanctioned. | 58 | 1 | (including applications for change-in-name and re-connections). |
| Applications pending. | 559 | 93 | (connections will be given as soon as the generating capacity of the Station has been augmented). |

List of connections given.

| Application No. | Order of connection given | Application No. | Order of connection given. |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 962 | 1 | 995 | 16 |
| 964 | 2 | 996 | 17 |
| 965 | 3 | 998 | 18 |
| 966 | 4 | 999 | 29 |
| 970 | 5 | 1002 | 20 |
| 973 | 6 | 1003 | 21 |
| 974 | 7 | 1004 | 22 |
| 977 | 8 | 1005 | 23 |
| 978 | 9 | 1008 | 24 |
| 980 | 10 | 1009 | 25 |
| 983 | 11 | 1010 | 26 |
| 990 | 12 | 1011 | 27 |
| 991 | 13 | 1012 | 28 |
| 992 | 14 | 1644 | 29 |
| 993 | 15 | 1635 | 30 |
| | | 1427 | 31 |

Note :—(1) The gaps indicate applications for Industrial supply and/or applications for reconnections or of those parties who did not submit test reports.

(2) The last mentioned three connections relate to the employees of the Branch.

SHRI RAJA RAM.

*1765. **Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaints were received by the Government to the effect that Shri Raja Ram, President, Municipal Committee, Moga had sold some medicines to the Municipal Committee, Moga from his own shop in contravention of section 48 of the Punjab Municipal Act ;
- (b) whether any enquiry has been held by the Government into the complaint ; if so, with what result;
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes. The recommendations of the Local officers are being awaited.
- (c) Does not arise.

SHRI LEKH RAJ.

*1766. **Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any complaints were received by the Government that Shri Lekh Raj, Municipal Commissioner of Moga has erected a large number of encroachments on a public street without the sanction of the Committee ;
- (b) whether any enquiries have been held into the complaint ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes, The Municipal Committee, Moga has been directed to consider the desirability of removing these encroachments under section 172 of the Punjab Municipal Act. 1911.

MONTHLY PAY OF OFFICERS IN THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

*1671. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

[Shri Prabodh Chandra.]

- (a) the number of officers drawing more than Rs. 200/- as monthly pay who were appointed in the Industries Department during the year 1949 ;
- (b) the nature of the work they are doing at present ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Nine.

- (b) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table.¹

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

***1703. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for the long list of over seventy Members of the District 'Grow More Food Committee, the District Congress President, Rohtak was asked to suggest only three names of Congressmen for inclusion in that Committee ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : No. The President Congress Committee was instead requested to suggest some suitable persons.

RECLAMATION OF WASTE LAND AND ITS REDISTRIBUTION.

***1742. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of acres of land under cultivation in the Punjab ;
- (b) the total number of acres of land reclaimed during the year 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;
- (c) the total number of acres of waste or banjar land in the Punjab ;
- (d) the methods Government propose to adopt to reclaim such land and the period within which it is proposed to be done ;
- (e) the method intended to be adopted for the redistribution of such land ;
- (f) whether Government propose to favour the Harijans substantially in the matter of such redistribution ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) 13.5 million acres.

b) 1948-49 Nil.

1949-50 6459 acres.

- (c) 26 lakh acres.
- (d) It is proposed to reclaim such lands with the help of heavy tractors as and when funds are available. For the present it has been decided to cultivate with tractors the areas abandoned by Muslims and which are at present lying uncultivated.
- (e) Matter is under consideration of Government.
- (f) No.

SUJI AND MEDA.

***1743. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government is aware that suji and meda are available for sale in the Punjab, although there is restriction on their manufacture and sale ;
- (b) whether there is any restriction in the Punjab on the sale of meda imported from Australia ;
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether the Government has considered the advisability of allowing one mill for milling suji and meda in bags for sale to the confectioners who prepare baken bread, suji bread, pastries and cakes etc. etc ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Government have no information.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Does not arise.

SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO MURABA WALLAS

***1744. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that muraba wallas in the Punjab are getting quotas of sugar directly from the Government of India ; if so, the total quantity of sugar thus supplied for the whole of the Punjab per annum ;
- (b) whether the Punjab Government was ever consulted by the Centre before allowing this quota to muraba wallas ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) According to the present position muraba wallas in the Punjab are not getting quotas of sugar directly from the Central Government.

- (b) Does not arise.

PLANTATION OF TREES.

***1746. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total number of trees planted in the Punjab through official agency during the year 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;
- (b) the number of matured and unmatured plants out of them ;
- (c) the source of water supply for these plants ;
- (d) the total cost of planting these trees ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) 1948-49 About 5,91,000
1949-50 About 28,32,500

- (b) Trees take a long time to grow and it is yet too early to give any information about their maturity. However, the success to date is about 60%.
- (c) Canals, water-courses, rainfall, wells and artificial watering by hand pumps etc.
- (d) About rupees one lakh.

RICE DEALERS ASSOCIATION AT MOGA.

***1762. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 50,000 maunds of rice are lying with the Rice Dealers Association at Moga and that these have not been taken delivery of by the Government in spite of their repeated requests ;
- (b) how and when does the Government propose to dispose of these stocks ;
- (c) whether this delay in taking delivery of rice has resulted in deterioration in the quality and a loss in weight of the rice for want of proper and adequate storage arrangements ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Yes.

- (b) The stocks have since been allocated for export.
- (c) No.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the stock in question was removed from the place after the receipt of this question by the Government ?

Minister : If notice is given, the date can be ascertained.

WHEAT.

***1763. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a large quantity of procured wheat has been spoiled in the State due to want of proper and adequate storage arrangements and delay in the issue of disposal instructions ;
- (b) the approximate quantity of wheat thus spoiled ;
- (c) who is responsible for this state of affairs ;
- (d) the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) Yes, but the damage was not due to either inadequate storage accommodation or delay in the issue of disposal instructions.

(b) 7482 maunds approximately.

(c) An enquiry into the affair has revealed that the responsibility for this damage lay on the then D. F. C. Ambala.

(d) The D. F. C. has since been retrenched from the Department and further action in the matter is under the consideration of Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the wheat spoiled in the State was in fact spoiled at many places and not at Ambala alone ?

Minister : The wheat was spoiled at Ambala.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that the Government itself stated some days back that there were no proper arrangements for storage of wheat etc. ?

Minister : Necessary arrangements are being improved upon.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it not a fact that wheat was spoiled for want of proper arrangement of storage ?

Minister : The loss is due to rains.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that there was some loss of stored wheat at Moga also ?

Minister : This can be replied to, if notice is given.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The original question was asked for the whole of the State. The hon. Minister has stated the loss at Ambala alone. May I know the loss suffered at Ludhiana ?

Minister : At present, I can't tell that. But I can do so, if due notice is given.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the wheat spoiled at Ambala was mixed in foodgrain and was given in regular rations ?

Minister : It is quite wrong that wheat unfit for human consumption was issued on ration cards.

Shrimati Sita Devi : When Sardar Ujjal Singh was the Minister this thing was brought to his notice and he, in fact, admitted it.

Minister : He is not present to-day, otherwise I would have asked him and let the hon. Member know about it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are not the hon. Minister and the Director of the Department expected to know such matters ? Is it not a fact that wheat unfit for human consumption was mixed in the ration ?

Minister : Wheat which was unfit for human consumption was not mixed at all in the ration.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister make enquiries in the matter ?

Minister : I am aware of it but still if the hon. Member desires I can make further inquiries.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister ask the Civil Supplies Officer of Jullundur to furnish information about the quantity of such bad wheat mixed in the ration ?

Minister : I can do so provided notice is given.

RATIONS.

***1764. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether a written complaint was made to the District Organiser, Civil Supplies, Ferozepore that Shri Raja Ram, President, Municipal Committee, Moga has been drawing rations for some of the Members of his family who are employed in the military or are otherwise non-resident with him ;

(b) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know if it has come to the knowledge of the hon. Minister that some of the Members of Shri Raja Ram's family are staying outside the rationed area and yet ration is being drawn for them ?

Minister : That complaint has not yet come to me.

DISPOSAL OF THE MOTOR CAR BELONGING TO RANA ABDUL HAMID.

***1535. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the answer to my starred question No. 1157, notice of which was given in October 1949, is ready ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : The question No. *1157 and its answer are as follows :

QUESTION

Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State :—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the motor car No. 2278 E. P. J. belonging to Rana Abdul Hamid of Rahon was taken into custody by the Custodian of the Evacuee Property, Jullundur District; if so, the date thereof ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this car has since been disposed of ; if so, how and when ;
- (c) whether it was sold by public auction, if not, the reasons thereof ;
- (d) the name of the person to whom this car was sold together with his full home address ;
- (e) the total price paid for the said car together with the total repairing cost ;
- (f) whether the repairing cost of the car in question was deducted from the sale price ;
- (g) whether any motor Mechanic or mechanical Engineer was consulted by the Custodian or any other officer before fixing the price of the car, if so, the name of the officer so consulted together with the consulting fee paid to him ;
- (h) how the price of the motor car was determined and who was the final authority to pass orders regarding the fixing of price;

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

- (i) Whether there is any provision in the rules authorising the Government to give an evacuee property on evaluation, if so, quote the rule ?

ANSWER

- (a) Motor car No. 2278 E. P. J. belonging to Rana Abdul Hamid of Rahon was under the charge of Peace Committee Rahon for sometime after which it was handed over to Master Kabul Singh on 4-9-48 by the President of the Committee under orders of the Deputy Commissioner before the same could be taken over by the Asstt. Custodian Evacuee Property of the district of Jullundur ;
- (b) the Car was sold on evaluation on 17-9-48 ;
- (c) it was not sold by public auction but given on evaluation under orders of Government,
- (d) the car was sold to Master Kabul Singh. His home address is :—Village Gobindpur, Tehsil Nawanshehr, District Jullundur.
- (e) the car was evaluated at Rs. 1750/- and after allowing Rs. 1386/- claimed by Master Kabul Singh on account of repairing charges Rs. 364/- were realized in cash.
- (f) yes.
- (g) Shri P. N. Sahni General Manager Omni Bus Service, Jullundur was consulted by the Deputy Commissioner as Deputy Custodian but no remuneration was paid to him.
- (h) The price was determined on recommendation of Shri P. N. Sahni. Under the rules Evaluation Committee of the District is the proper authority for fixing the price.
- (i) evacuee property can be given on evaluation in accordance with the rules embodied in memorandum No. 1971 dated 27/29th November. 1947 addressed to all Deputy Commissioners in the East Punjab, copy where of is enclosed¹

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA, PUNJAB BRANCH.

***1647. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the National Medical Association of India, Punjab Branch has represented to the Government their grievances

regarding the new enactments which affect medical practitioners ; if so, the result thereof ;

- (b) whether the printed memorandum circulated by the said Association has been given due consideration by the Government ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) and (b). Yes. Government are considering the question of revising the Indian Medical Degrees (East Punjab Amendment) Bill, 1949, as published in the Government Gazette, dated the 12th October, 1949, in order to meet the demands of the unregistered medical practitioners, as far as possible.

WORK CENTRES FOR REFUGEES.

***1714. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the work centres started by the Government after the liquidation of the refugee camps in the State ;
- (b) the number of refugees, both male and female, working in these centres and the type of work being done therein ;
- (c) the average income of the refugees working in the centres
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open more work centres ; if so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) The names of the Work Centres started are as follows :—

Wood Work.
Foundry and Engineering.
Agricultural Implements.
Metallic Fittings.
Lock Making.
Cutlery and Surgical Instruments.
Druggets and Carpets.
Pottery.
Sports Goods.
Shoe and Leather Goods.
Hosiery.
Hats and Caps.
Soap Making.
Oil Pressing.
Dyeing and Calico Printing.

[Minister for Development]

Laundrying.

Wool Spinning and Weaving.

Cotton Weaving

Munj Matting.

Tent Making.

Silver and Lacquer work

Glass Bangles.

(b) About 1200. The names of the Work Centres indicate the type of work being done therein.

(c) The average income of workers employed in these centres ranges from -/4/- to Rs. 1/8/- per day. The income varies with the nature of work in a trade and the experience gained by the workers.

(d) No. - The number of Workers may, however, be increased if more refugees are willing to undertake work.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister please tell us the names of the work centres and the places where they are situated ?

Minister : I have already stated the names of the work centres but as to the places where they are situated, I require notice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the number of refugees working in each centre ?

Minister : I require notice for that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister please tell us the maximum number of refugees working at any time in the work centres ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Members in reality do not ask questions to seek useful information. On the other hand they try to cross-examine the hon. Minister with the result that the House is not able to dispose of as many questions as ordinarily it would.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister has said that the income of a refugee ranges from -/4/- to Rs. 1/8/- per diem. May I know whether Government gives any subsidy to the refugees who earn only annas four a day ?

Minister : I require notice for that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware that now-a-days even an unskilled labourer earns Rs. 2/- a day and finds it difficult to support his family ? Does he think that a refugee earning -/4/- per diem is able to make both ends meet ?

Minister : This is a suggestion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know what was the scheme of the Government after closing down the camps to provide work to thousands of refugees in the work centres ?

Minister : This does not arise out of the main question. But information will be collected if he gives notice.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware that the Government has provided 38 lakhs of rupees for work centres ? If so, do I take it that this amount has been earmarked only for 1200 persons ?

Minister : No. Government will utilize this amount according to its discretion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether widows having a number of children to support and working in these work centres, will be completely rehabilitated ?

Minister : The object of these work centres is that the refugees learning different crafts should be rehabilitated.

Shrimati Sita Devi : My point is whether Government has prepared any scheme to rehabilitate these refugees after they have completed the course of training ?

Chief Minister : After the completion of the training of the refugees, these work centres will be converted into co-operative societies and the same refugees will work there. Thus they would earn their living.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether after the formation of co-operative societies, the widows who have received training, would be provided with sufficient work to be able to support their families ?

Minister for Development : These co-operative societies would earn to the extent to which they work.

Shrimati Sita Devi : My point is whether Government has any scheme up its sleeves under which it would provide these refugees with so much work that they would be able to derive sufficient income, because I know that otherwise there is not enough work by which they could eke out their living ?

Minister : Work done in co-operative societies is not provided by the Government. It is the members themselves who arrange to get work and derive income from it with collective effort.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether there is any scope for the

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

crafts which are being taught in the work centres and whether co-operative societies will succeed in making a good income ?

Minister : Yes. There is ample scope for them.

RENTS ETC. FROM MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTIES.

***1715. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the total amount realised by the Government ;
 - (i) as rent of muslim evacuee urban immovable property ;
 - (ii) as lease money from evacuee factories ;
 - (iii) as land revenue from Muslim evacuee property.
- (b) the way in which the Government intends to spend the amount.
- (c) The arrears if any regarding part (a) (i) (ii) and (iii) above and the steps taken by the Government to realize the same ?

The hon Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) (i) Rs. 57,41,806/11/8 up to 31st of January, 1950.

(ii) Rs. 5,80,523/5/10 up to 31st of December, 1949.

(iii) Rs. 66,13,104/- up to 31st January, 1950.

- (b) A sum of Rs. 15 to 20 lakhs has already been spent on repairs and a sum of over 3 lakhs in payment of taxes etc. due to Government and Local Bodies. The balance it is hoped to utilize in one shape or the other for the benefit of displaced persons, including payment of allowances to widows and destitute persons. No final decisions have been taken by the Government in this respect.

(c) (i) Arrears on account of (a) (i) up to 31st January, 1950 is Rs. 23,92,533/-

(ii) Arrears on account of (a) (ii) up to 31st December, 1949 is Rs. 12,61,665/7/6

(iii) Arrears on account of (a) (iii) as it stood on 31st January, 1950 is Rs. 20,29,678/-

District Rent Officers and Assistant Custodians are taking all necessary steps to recover the dues and they have been invested with powers of Assistant Collectors for this purpose.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that out of 51 lakhs

of rupees realized as rent from the Muslim Evacuee property, Rs 21 lakhs have been expended on the repairs of the houses. In other words, about 40% of the amount has been utilised for repair purposes. May I know what is the reason for such a high percentage of expenditure? Is it due to the fact that extensive repairs have been carried out to the houses which had been demolished?

Minister : The hon. Member must be aware that a large number of houses belonging to Muslim evacuees were damaged and the expenditure on their repairs was naturally large.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether expenditure thus incurred was of a capital nature?

Minister : No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the speed with which recoveries of arrears are being made by the Government?

Minister : I require notice for this. But I may, however, state that the officers appointed for the realization of such arrears have been asked to expedite the recovery without harassing the defaulters.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any suits were filed against any person with a view to realize the arrears?

Minister : I have no knowledge about it at present. If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall supply the required information to him.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government realizes that in view of the huge arrears some action is necessary to be taken in this connection? Has the Government any intention to change its policy with a view to realize the arrears?

Minister : It is the intention of the Government to realize the arrears from them and also not to put them to any unnecessary inconvenience.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the huge arrears referred to by the hon. Minister in reply to (c) above, may I know how many rent deeds have so far been completed and how much amount has been realized? Is it a fact that so much exorbitant rent is realized from them that they find it difficult to make any payments and that in spite of the efforts of the officers, arrears go on accumulating?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a suggestion.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In spite of all these difficulties, has the Government decided to restore the 33% cut with a view to relieve the refugees from this burden?

Minister : This cut was dispensed with under the orders of the Central Government. Representations have been received by the Government to the effect that 33% cut should be restored. It is the intention of the Government to represent to the Central Government to restore this 33% cut.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if the Government has considered the point that the refugees who have left their houses and shops in West Pakistan and who have been allotted houses and shops here in this State, should not be charged any rent and that only book adjustments should be made ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is again a suggestion.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : No, Sir, it is a definite proposal for action.

Mr. Speaker : There is very little difference between the two.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir, It has been stated by the hon. Minister in reply to part (c) above that arrears amounting to Rs. 30 lakhs are to be realized from the refugees. May I know if it is not a fact that these arrears are due to three times the land-revenue realized from them on the land allotted to them ? Is it also a fact that they are not in a position to pay these arrears due to the realization of land revenue at very high rates ?

Minister : It is not due to three times the land revenue as the hon. Member thinks.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Are these arrears from evacuee property due to lease money being realized at less rates ? Is it a fact that these arrears are also due to the weak policy of the Government in connection with the auctioning of the evacuee factories ?

Minister : What the hon. Member says is not based on facts. The arrears are due to slumps in the trade. The arrears of lease money from evacuee factories were mostly due to the dull business.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is it a fact that while leasing out the factories, very high bids were given at the time of auction ?

Minister : It may be so.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Was it not within the knowledge of the Government that the bids given by the refugees were very high ? Did the Government realize that the rates at which these factories were leased out were very high ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a matter of opinion and suggestion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Government prepared to consider the cases of those poor refugees in general and the widows in particular who can-

not afford to pay so much exorbitant rent ? Is it also a fact that the arrears are also due to their inability to pay the rent charged at exorbitant rates ?

Minister : If the Lady Member brings such cases to my notice where widows are unable to pay the rent which they are required to pay, I shall certainly consider those cases.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Have any definite instructions been issued to the rent officers not to reduce the rents and also not to allow such payments on instalment basis ?

Minister : That will be done by the Government. If the Lady Member brings deserving cases to my notice I shall certainly reduce the rent.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Should I bring such deserving cases to the notice of the hon. Minister one by one ? Would it not be in the fitness of things if instructions were issued to the rent officers to do the needful ?

Minister : If any such step is taken by the Government, then the Lady Member would complain against vesting the rent officers with so many powers.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Minister has just stated that the rent could be reduced under the orders of the Central Government. He has also been pleased to state in reply to the question put by the Lady Member Shrimati Sita Devi that he was prepared to reduce the rent of the evacuee houses in cases where any woman occupant had any genuine grievances. May I know as to which of the two statements is correct ?

Minister : My hon. Friend has not understood me. We can reduce the rent. So far as the restoration of the cut is concerned, it could be done with the permission of the Central Government. The hon. Lady Member wanted to know whether our Government was authorized to reduce the rent in individual cases where it is found that the rent charged is unnecessarily high, rent can be reduced.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Should I take it that our Government can reduce the rent in individual cases where a widow or any person cannot afford to pay the rent or where it finds that the rent charged is unnecessarily high, without referring these cases to the Central Government ?

Minister : Government can do that. But in certain cases it cannot do that. For instance, Government cannot reduce the rent in such cases where the occupant having an income of Rs. 300/- per month pays Rs. 20/- per month as rent of the evacuee property. But Government can reduce the rent or even remit it in the cases of those widows who are very poor and cannot afford to pay it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not the intention of the Government to issue orders to the rent officers to reduce rent in special cases ? Would it not be in the fitness of things if, instead of bringing individual cases to the notice of the hon. Minister, instructions are issued to the rent officers to reduce the rent in special cases or in other words empower the rent officers accordingly ?

Minister : There is every likelihood of their misusing such powers.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are they going to misuse their powers in the case of widows only ?

Minister : We have already granted many concessions to the widows and particularly with the idea that the Lady Member may not get any chance to make any further complaints. If more powers were to be given to the rent officers as referred to by her, there is every likelihood of their misusing them.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MURDER OF SARDAR GURA SINGH OF VILLAGE MAKHI KALAN, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***2065. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that Sardar Gura Singh, a prominent Congress worker of village Makhi Kalan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar was murdered in the fields on 19-3-50.
- (b) Whether any of the local punitive police post employees followed the assailants of Sardar Gura Singh mentioned in part (a) above; if so, with what results ;
- (ii) whether the police employees who followed the assailants had any fire-arms with them ; if so, the number and the nature of such fire-arms ;
- (iii) the total number of the fire-arms at the police post on 15-3-50.
- (c) Whether the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police in-charge of the aforesaid police post was present in the village on the day of the occurrence ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) Whether any fire-arms were sent to the afore-said police post by the District Police Head Quarters before 18-3-50 ; if so, when, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chnd Bhargava : (a) Yes. It cannot be said with any certainty as to what connections the deceased had with the Congress.

(b) As the information of murder was received by the police long after the assailants had made good their escape, the question of the police following them did not arise.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) Three rifles.

(c) No. He was away in connection with the investigation of certain cases which occurred in Makhi Kalan but he reached the scene of occurrence soon to take over the investigation.

(d) No. Three rifles are kept at Police Station Bhikhiwind for this post in reserve to be issued in cases of emergency.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why the Government did not send fire-arms to the police post at Makhi Kalan for the protection of the people ?

Chief Minister : Rifles are not kept everywhere but in the armoury.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know why the Government did not make any arrangement for the keeping of rifles at the post when the police post remained posted from November to March ? In the absence of rifles, how could the police encounter the dacoits ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When more than two constables are posted at any police post, they are generally provided with rifles but when a sufficient number of police constables were deputed at this police post, why were rifles not sent ?

Chief Minister : I do not know what the hon. Member means by "sufficient number" of police constables.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : When more than two police constables were posted at the police post, may I know whether the rifles were not sent as they were not likely to be used or for some other reason ?

Chief Minister : Rifles are not supplied generally unless they are to be used.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the dacoits were armed with rifles ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should not go into too many details.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : How could the police successfully confront the dacoits without any fire-arms ?

Chief Minister : Does not arise out of this question.

PROSECUTION OF SHRI RAM GOPAL AND AMAR CHAND OF SIMLA.

*2068. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) if it is a fact that Shri Ram Gopal and Amar Chand of M/S Bishambar Mal Gujar Mal, wholesale cloth merchants of Simla, were prosecuted for the alleged breach of clause 8 of the East Punjab Cotton Cloth (Distribution) Order, 1948 ;

(b) if so, whether, before launching the prosecution, opinion of the Legal Remembrancer to Government was obtained ;

(c) if the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, was the opinion given by the Legal Remembrancer accepted by Government and action taken in accordance with it ; If not, why not ;

(d) whether the attention of the Government, has been drawn to the Judgement of the court discharging the accused in the case, and particularly to the remarks as regards the harrassment to the accused caused by that frivolous prosecution ? if so, what action has the Government taken to punish these responsible for this unfortunate prosecution ;

(e) if it is a fact that accused in the above-mentioned case were brought in handcuffs from the police lock-up to the court and paraded in that condition through the whole of the Lower Bazar ;

(f) if in view of the judgment of the court, will Government consider payment of handsome compensation to the aggrieved party, especially in view of the fact that the prosecution has caused considerable loss of reputation and mental and physical torture to innocent and respectable party over and above the loss to the tune of thousands of rupees in business ;

(g) if, after the challan had been put in court, Mr. G. S. Bedi, Civil Supplies Officer, Simla, was also made a co-accused in the case, and his services terminated, if so, what compensation Government proposes to pay to him for this illegal discharge from service and harrassment and expense caused to him in defending himself against this malicious prosecution ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The advice given by the Legal Remembrancer to Government is always treated as confidential.

(d) First part—Yes.

Second part—As the prosecution was launched under the order of Government this part of the question does not arise.

(e) Yes. They were brought in handcuffs from Police Station Sadar Simla, to the court of the Additional District Magistrate Simla, through the Lower Bazar, the shortest route.

(f) In view of the provisions of section 16 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, the question of payment of compensation does not arise.

(g) (i) Mr. Bedi was a co-accused in the case but his retrenchment had nothing to do with this case.

(ii) Mr. Bedi was a temporary Government servant and due to general retrenchment in October, 1949 his services were terminated under the usual procedure applicable to temporary Government servants. The question of payment of compensation to him, therefore, does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the prosecution was launched, though the Chief Secretary and the Director Civil Supplies had given their opinion against this prosecution ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that they were victimised on political considerations ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a question of opinion.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it not a fact that the Anti-Black-marketing Bill is being brought forward to deal with persons indulging in any such cases ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is a suggestion.

Chief Minister : The Bill has not been brought merely on account of such a case.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of the judgment of the court it appears that the case is *malafide* and in face of the fact that the accused were brought handcuffed through the Lower Bazar, is the Government prepared to give any compensation to the accused ?

Chief Minister . I regret that I cannot disclose the information as the matter is confidential.

ECONOMIC ADVISERS IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

*2054. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

- (a) the number of economic advisers in the Civil Supplies Department in the State ;
- (b) whether Government has prescribed any qualifications for persons to be appointed to these posts.
- (c) if so, whether the persons appointed possess the prescribed qualifications ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) One.

(b) The qualifications required are special experience and wide knowledge of economic problems.

(c) Yes.

BOARD OF VAIDS AND HAKEEMS.

***2053. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether any Board of Vaids and Hakeems under the Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act of 1949 has been formed by the Government ; if so, their list together with their full home addresses ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the number of Vaids and Hakeems registered under the above-mentioned Act so far ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No. The matter^r is receiving the consideration of Government. Efforts are being made to appoint the Board at an early date,

(b) None. The registration of Vaids and Hakeems will be undertaken by the Board as soon as it is constituted.

Sardar Bachan Singh : When the Bill was passed long ago, may I know the reasons for delay in not constituting the Board of Vaids and Hakims ?

Minister : The delay was caused as according to the Chopra Committee Report the Board was to be constituted on all-India basis. Moreover, I remained very busy with the work of allotment of land.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The Report of the Chopra Committee was made long before the Bill was passed. Is it because of the fact that the hon. Minister remained very busy that the Board could not be constituted ?

Minister : I have stated plainly that I remained very busy with the work of allotment of land. If it were not so, the Board would have been constituted by now.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If the hon. Minister is now free from that work, may I know when this Board will now be constituted ?

Minister : The Board will be formed in the month of April, 1950.

REGISTRAR UNDER AYURVEDIC AND UNANI PRACTITIONERS ACT.

***2079. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether a Registrar under the Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act of 1949 has been appointed ; if not, why not ;
- (b) whether nomination of Members to the Board under this Act has been done so far ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is not all this delay owing to the fact that the Government has a mind to withdraw the legislation that has been enacted in this connection ? So far as I remember, some such indication was given in the last session. Does the Government want to annul the Act that has already been passed ?

Minister : No, the Government has no such intention.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the late Colonel Nat had proposed the names for the Board in question in October last and the Chief Minister had also stated that the decision in the matter had been reached and that the Board would soon be constituted ?

Minister : I have already stated¹ that the matter has been delayed owing to my inability to find time for it due to several preoccupations.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Minister aware that since the Act has been passed, there is a likelihood of the Government inspectors harassing the vaid and hakims for not having got themselves registered ?

Minister : Nobody has been put to trouble on this account, so far, nor is it proposed to take action or institute proceedings against anybody under the Act, until the Board in question has been constituted.

OCCUPANCY TENANTS AND TENANTS-AT-WILL.

***2025. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the grievances of the occupancy tenants and tenants-at-will of District Hoshiarpur have come to the notice of the Government through a printed open letter addressed to the Punjab Government, if so, to what result ?

¹For Answer vide Appendix.

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : First part :—Yes.

Second part :—Is under the consideration of Government

— — — — —

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

475. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether under the quasi permanent allotment scheme the daughter-in-law, whose husband is alive and the father-in-law to whom her husband is entitled to succeed are allowed to have lands allotted at one and the same place ;
- (b) whether any representations were received by the Under Secretary Rehabilitation Department, Jullundur by Bibi Veero wife of S. Gurdip Singh of village Margindpura, District Amritsar, daughter-in-law, and her mother Sh. Ram Kaur, whom the daughter-in-law is to succeed praying that she may be allowed to get land allotted to her with S. Gurmej Singh alias Meja Singh of village Margindpura, her father-in-law, if so, the decision arrived at by the authorities concerned in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes, provided application to this effect was put in before 30-11-1949.

- (b) Shri Meja Singh applied for allotment of Mst. Veero and her mother Mst. Ram Kaur with him. The request for allotment to Mst. Veero with him was covered by rules and has been accepted. His request for allotment of Mst. Ram Kaur with him which was tantamount to allotment away from her own collaterals and as such was not covered by rules was not accepted.

— — — — —

LAND OF VILLAGE NURWALA IN PATTI TEHSIL.

476. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the land in village Nurwala, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was temporarily allotted to any person up to 31st January 1950 ;
- (b) (i) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the list of temporary allottees along with the area allotted them ;
- (ii) the area actually cultivated and sown by each of the aforesaid temporary allottees during 1947-48 and 1949-50, respectively ;

(c) total area of the aforesaid land with the following particulars :—

- (i) Cultivable Nahri ;
- (ii) Cultivable Barani ;
- iii) Kallar and Thoor ;
- (d) the grade in which the village mentioned in part (a) above has been put for purposes of *quasi*-permanent allotment ;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to revise the grade in which the land of this village has been put ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

(b) A list showing the names of temporary allottees, area allotted and area actually cultivated and sown is placed on the table.¹

(c) The total area of this village is 414 acres.

| | | | |
|--------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Nehri | 131 | Chahi | 90 |
| Barani | 134 | | — |
| Banjar | 37 | (Ghair Mumkin) | 14 |
| Thoor | 8 | | — |
| | — | | — |
| | 310 | 414 | 104 |

(d) 1st Grade.

(e) No.

IRREGULAR USE OF PETROL COUPONS IN MUKTSAR TEHSIL.

477. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of motor cars and jeep cars of Muktsar tehsil in the Ferozepore district for which supplementary petrol coupons were issued for the months of August and September, 1948 ;
- (b) the number of jeep cars taken into custody by Guru Har Sahai police Station, district Ferozepore, in the month of August, 1948 ;
- (c) the dates on which each of the jeep cars referred to above was taken into custody ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that jeep car No. P.B.F. now E.P.F. 942 was also taken into custody by the police authorities Guru Har Sahai police station, Tehsil Muk'sar in the month of August, 1948 ;
- (e) the date on which each of the jeep cars referred to in part (c) above was released by the police ;
- (f) the quantity of petrol actually issued by the different petrol dealers in lieu of the supplementary coupons issued for jeep car No. E. P. F. 942 referred to above up-till the time of its being taken into custody by the aforesaid police authorities ;
- (g) whether the Government is aware of the fact that some of the

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

petrol coupons issued for some of the aforesaid jeep cars including jeep car No. 942 were sold illegally and cashed after the cars having been taken into police custody ;

- (h) whether it is a fact that complaints were made to the District Magistrate, Ferozepore regarding the irregularities referred to in part (g) above ; if so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : (a) Three.

(b) Three.

(c) PBF-942 on 17-8-48, PBF-1013 & DLA-4422 on 30-8-48.

(d) Yes.

(e) Jeeps Nos. PBF-942 and PBF-1013 were released on 24-1-49 and Jeep No. DLA-4422 was returned to the owner as it was unserviceable.

(f) Figures are not available as coupons are valid throughout India and it is not possible to check it from all petrol dealers in India.

(g) A complaint has been received in respect of one jeep only and the same has been investigated.

(h) Yes. No action is called for.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND

478. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

(a) whether the allotments of Bharariwal, Fatah ur, Tungpani, Tungbala, Jandiala and other suburban area adjacent to Amritsar has been completed under the quasi permanent scheme ; if so, the list of the persons to whom the land in each of the aforesaid villages or towns has been allotted, together with the area allotted to each one of them ;

(b) whether all the allottees mentioned in part (a) above were holding any lands in the towns or suburbs of Pakistan; if so, the list of the areas in which each one of them was holding lands in Pakistan ;

(c) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative the reasons for allotting them lands in the suburban locality ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes. Statement 'A' attached¹ gives the necessary list.

(b) No. Statement 'B' attached¹ gives the names of those who were not suburban claimants but have been settled in areas mentioned in (a).

(c) The information asked for has been given in Statement 'B'.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

479. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

- (a) the list of the Trade Unions with their full addresses which applied for registration during 1949 ;
- (b) whether there is any union out of these referred to in part (a) above which could not be registered ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether any workers unions of Nangal and Bhakra applied to the Registrar, Trade Unions, Punjab for registration of their Unions during January, 1950 ; if so, with what result ;
- (d) the list of unions referred to in part (c) above, with their full addresses ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (a) and (b) The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

480. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the allotment of village Chakbala, also known as Pala Chak, Tehsil Amritsar has been completed under the quasi permanent scheme ;
- (b) (i) whether any area in the village referred to above has been allotted to any local colonists ; if so, the area allotted to each one of them ;
- (ii) whether any local colonists have been refused allotment in this village ; if so, the reasons therefor, and the area to which they were entitled ;
- (c) whether any persons of other than Amritsar Tehsil have been allotted lands in this village ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

- (b) (i) Yes. 12-1½ standard acres have been allotted to one local colonist.
- (ii) No.
- (c) No.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY STEEL LICENSING OFFICER.

481. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

- (a) the number of applications received by the Steel Licensing Officer, Punjab Government, Kalka, from each district, from persons asking for permits for iron and steel to be used for repairs of their houses or for new constructions during the year 1949 ;
- (b) the number of the applications district-wise which were sanctioned upto 28th February 1950 and the quantity of steel and iron permitted in each district for repairs and for new constructions, respectively ;
- (c) the number of the applications referred to in part (a) which were rejected upto 28th February 1950 ;
- (d) the number of cases in which information regarding rejection was communicated to the applicants referred to in part (c) ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) (i) the number of applications received before 21st November 1949, which are still pending ;
(ii) when they are expected to be disposed of ;
(iii) reasons for delay, if any, in their disposal ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The required information is given in the enclosed statement.¹

ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

482. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the allotment of lands in village Bharowal Alladin Pura, Qazikot of Tehsil Taran Taran, District Amritsar, has been completed ;
- (b) whether any area in the village referred to above has been declared suburban area ;
- (c) whether the temporary allottees who were allotted lands in these villages temporarily, have been disturbed at the time of quasi permanent allotment; if so, the reasons for each case of disturbance ;

- (d) whether any persons have been allotted lands in any of the aforesaid villages, who were neither the temporary allottees nor local colonists there ; if so, the reasons for each case ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) The allotment of village Bharowal and Qazikot (Rakh Dinawal) has been completed. There is no muslim evacuee area in village Allahdinpura.

(b) No.

(c) *Village Qazikot.*

No temporary allottee has been disturbed.

Village Bharowal.

60 sitting allottees were disturbed. Statement 'A' placed on the table gives reasons for disturbance in each case.

(d) *Village Qazikot.*

Area being available after meeting the demand of sitting allottees, four others were accommodated. These were otherwise eligible for settlement in Tehsil Tarn Taran and were small allottees.

Village Bharowal.

Seven non-sitting allottees, who were not local colonists, have been accommodated for consolidation of close relations. Statement 'B' placed on the table¹ gives detailed information.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

483. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

- (a) whether the allotment at Tarn Taran Town of Amritsar District has been completed under the quasi permanent scheme ;
- (b) whether any persons who were neither the landowners in any urban or suburban locality in Pakistan nor were the local colonists have been allotted lands in this town ; if so, the reasons for each such case of allotment ;
- (c) the list of the persons to whom land in this town has been allotted together with the area which each one of them has been allotted under the quasi permanent scheme ;
- (d) the area each one of these allottees was holding in the Town or suburban locality in Pakistan before migrating and the names of such localities ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Tarn Taran comes under the category of urban area and the scheme for allotment of agricultural lands within the civic limits of urban town has not yet been finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

484. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of land at village Walaithshahwala, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepore, under the quasi permanent scheme has been completed ;

(b) whether any land of this village was allotted to any displaced persons during 1949-50 ; if so, the list of such persons ;

(c) whether any land has been allotted to the temporary allottees mentioned in part (b) above, or their fathers under the quasi permanent scheme ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether any of the persons referred to in part (b) above got the land allotted to himself in place of his father on the ground of his being too old and weak to cultivate the land ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No. Khasra Nos. have been marked but allotment orders have not yet been issued.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

485. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether the allotment of land under the quasi permanent scheme at village Kang, Tehsil Tarn Taran, has been completed ;

(ii) grade of the land of this village ;

(b) whether any of the temporary allottees who were colonists of the adjacent village, Malchak, and were holding tenancy land in village Kang, have been disturbed ; if so, the reasons for each case of disturbance ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) First grade.

- (b) Yes, 4 temporary allottees who were colonists of Malchak have been disturbed. Two of these were bigger allottees with 14 standard acres each and the other two had to make room for blood relations of temporary allottees. Of the six allottees who have been accommodated in this village, three were sitting allottees and the other three were their blood relations. They are all colonists of the village and already own land there. Besides, none of them was a bigger allottee than any of those who have been disturbed.
-

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

483. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the cities, towns and the villages respectively which have been declared as urban and suburban areast for the purposes of allotment of lands under the quasi-permanent scheme in the Tehsil of Tarn Taran, District Amritsar ;
- (b) the total evacuee cultivable area in each of these localities;
- (c) whether any such persons have been allotted lands in areas referred to in part (a) above, under the quasi-permanent scheme, as were neither the local colonist nor were holding lands in any of these localities of Pakistan, which were declared as urban and suburban for purposes of allotment by the Punjab Government; if so, the list of such persons along with their full addresses and the reasons for allotting them lands in these localities;
- (d) the names of the allottees who have been allotted lands in the localities referred to in part (a) above and the names of the localities referred to in part (c) in which they were holding lands prior to their migration to India ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Urban. | Tarn Taran |
| Suburban. | 1. Palasaur, 2. Jodhpur, 3. Boghe. |

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| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------|---------------|---------|
| (b) Urban. | Tarn Taran | 1 | standard acre | 8 units |
| Suburban. | Palasaur | 1510 | „ | |
| | Jodhpur | 8 | „ | 7½ „ |
| | Boghe | 26 | „ | |

(c) *Urban*

Urban land has been excluded from quasi-permanent allotment.

Suburban

Yes. Statement 'A' placed on the table gives the names of allottees, who were neither local colonists nor suburban claimants and the area allotted to each of them.

They have been accommodated in these villages because area was available after meeting the demand of suburban claimants and they were sitting allottees of these villages and had abandoned Grade I land in Pakistan.

- (d) Statement 'B' placed on the table¹ gives the necessary information regarding suburban claimants settled in these villages.

— — —

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

487. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

- (a) the names of cities towns and the villages respectively which have been declared as urban and suburban areas for the purposes of allotment of lands under the quasi permanent scheme in the tahsil of Amritsar, district Amritsar;
- (b) the total evacuee cultivable area in each of these localities ;
- (c) whether any such persons have been allotted lands in areas referred to in part (a) above under the quasi permanent scheme, as were neither the local colonists nor were holding lands in any of those localities of Pakistan which have declared as urban and suburban for purposes of allotment by the Punjab Government; if so, the list of such persons along with their full addresses, and the reasons for allotting them lands in these localities ;
- (d) the names of the allottees who have been allotted land in the localities referred to in part (a) above and the names of the localities referred to in part (c) in which they were holding lands prior to their migration to India ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) and (b) Statement 'A' attached¹ gives the necessary information.

(c) *Urban.*

The scheme for urban allotment has not yet been finalized.

Suburban.

Yes. Statement 'B' attached¹ gives the names and addresses of such persons.

Reasons for allotment in suburban area to Major General Tara Singh, Brig. Manak Shah were given in answer to starred question 1334² and for Sardar Mohan Singh and Bros. to starred question No. 1573³

(d) Statement 'C' giving the requisite information is enclosed¹.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND

488. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) the names of the cities, towns and the villages respectively which have been declared as urban and suburban areas for the purpose of allotment of lands under the quasi-permanent scheme in tahsil Ajnala, district Amritsar ;
- (b) the total evacuee cultivable area in each of these localities;
- (c) whether any such persons have been allotted lands in areas referred to in part (a) above under the quasi-permanent scheme as were neither the local colonists nor were holding lands in any of these localities of Pakistan which have been declared as urban and suburban for purposes of allotment by the Punjab Government ; if so, the list of such persons along with their full addresses and the reasons for allotting them lands in these localities ;
- (d) the names of the allottees who have been allotted lands in the localities referred to in part (a) above and the names of the localities referred to in part (c) in which they were holding lands prior to their migration to India ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No city, town or village in Ajnala Tahsil has been declared as urban or suburban area. There is only one town Ram Dass which could be called urban. There is no evacuee area in this Town.

1 Kept in the Library.

2. Vide () 20, Vol. IV of E. P. Assembly Debate.

3. Vide page (9) 23 Supra.

[Minister for Rehabilitation.]

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

— — —

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

489. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the allotment of lands under the quasi permanent scheme at village Bhojjan, Tahsil Tarn Taran has been completed ;
- (b) names of the adjacent villages which touch the boundary of villages mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) whether any local colonist of the villages referred to in part (b) above, has been allotted lands in the village referred to in part (a) above, under the quasi permanent scheme ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether any persons who are the colonists of Amritsar and Ajnala Tahsils have been allotted lands in village Bhojjan, mentioned above ; if so, the list of such persons together with their home addresses and the reasons for allotting them lands out of their Tahsil areas ;
- (e) whether any temporary allottees of the said villages who were the colonists of Tarn Taran Tahsil have been disturbed in this village under the quasi permanent scheme ; if so, the reasons therefor and the list of such persons with their addresses ;
- (f) whether any person has been allotted more than 40 acres of land in this village ; if so, the list of such persons and the reasons therefor ;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to allot lands in this village to the colonists of the village referred to in part (b) above ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (h) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in connection with the irregularities brought to the notice of the Government regarding the allotment in this village ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes.

- (b) Village Mirpur, Panjwar, Bhaini, Matwan, Gill Varaich and Kot Dharam Chand Kalan.

- (c) Yes, the local colonists of villages Panjwar, Bhaini, Matwan, Gill Varaich and Kot Dharam Chand Kalan have been allotted land in this village.]
- (d) No.
- (e) Yes. Statemnet 'A' placed on the table¹ gives the requisite information.
- (f) No.
- (g) No, because no area is available in this village after meeting the demand of sitting allottees.
- (h) Does not arise.

VACATION OF HOUSES BY TENANTS-AT-WILL.

490. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether the non-Muslim tenants-at-will of the evacuee lands who have cultivated these lands since long under their Muslim landlords will be asked to vacate their houses after the allotments of lands cultivated by them to the displaced persons under the quasi-permanent scheme ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether the displaced tenants-at-will who were allotted evacuee lands after their migration to the Punjab State, will be asked to vacate their houses from the localities of their cultivations when the allotment of lands is made under the quasi-permanent scheme ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give such tenants-at-will as are ejected from their houses, housing accommodation, in lieu of the houses of which they are now in possession ;
- (d) whether Government has prepared any scheme to give work to them after their dispossession of the lands which they were temporarily allotted ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) No instructions for the eviction of resident non-Muslim tenants-at will have been issued.

- (b) Displaced tenants-at-will, will be entitled to housing accommodation in villages of their temporary cultivation provided sufficient accommodation is available.
- (c) Tenants-at-will ejected from their houses will be entitled to accommodation in other villages provided housing accommodation is available.
- (d) Efforts will be made to absorb displaced tenants-at-will as tenants of the allottees.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND.

491. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

- (a) whether Government has come to a decision about the allotment of lands to issueless widows under the quasi-permanent scheme ;
- (b) whether issueless widows will be allotted lands with their collaterals ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : (a) Yes certain guiding principles were laid down for aiding Resettlement Officers to arrive at decisions on applications from women claimants. Normally, it was not possible for a Resettlement Officer to ascertain whether a woman claimant was issueless or otherwise.

- (b) Allotment has been usually made with collaterals and in cases of real hardship or fear of life, allotments have been made with applicant's parents or brothers.

SITTING OF ASSEMBLY ON SATURDAY, 1st APRIL, 1950.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I beg to move:

That the Assembly shall sit on Saturday, 1st April 1950, at 10 A. M. and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 2 P. M. without question put.

The motion was carried.

ELECTION TO E. P. AND B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAYS LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That this Assembly shall elect on such date and in such manner as may be approved by the hon. Speaker two representatives, who may or may not be Members of the Assembly, one each to serve on the B. B. & C. I. and the Eastern Punjab Railways' Local Advisory Committees.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That this Assembly shall elect on such date and in such manner as may be approved by the hon. Speaker two representative, who may or may not be Members of the Assembly, one each to serve on the B. B. & C. I. and the Eastern Punjab Railways' Local Advisory Committees.

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Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, the House would have been enlightened if the hon. Minister had just considered it necessary to point out if there is some difference in the procedure that used to be followed and the procedure contemplated now.

Minister for Public works : The procedure contemplated now is the same which was followed in 1948.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I don't think there is much difference except that when the Assembly is not in session the election is held by post.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The usual method of election is by Proportional Representation by means of the Single Transferable Vote.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The motion is in this form but the method of election is left to me.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I would suggest that the hon. Ministers should throw some light while moving such motions so that the House may know the reasons why a particular motion has been moved. Even when moving the Bills, Ministers do not say anything. A few words from them are necessary.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That this Assembly shall elect on such date and in such manner as may be approved by the hon. Speaker two representatives, who may or may not be Members of the Assembly, one each to serve on the B. B. & C. I. and the Eastern Punjab Railways Local Advisory Committees.

The motion was carried.

NEW TOWNSHIPS (STREET LIGHTING AND WATER SUPPLY) FEES BILL.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume consideration of the Motion that the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water Supply) Fees Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, Yesterday I was saying that if this Bill had been sponsored by any one other than Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi, we would not have been so much surprised, as we are feeling now. **Well,** this gentleman needs no introduction. He is that person who till the last minute of assuming the office of Ministership, was dedicating every moment of his life to the service of refugees. He is one of those few who tusk to their guns in order to serve their stranded brethren and had refused

[Shrimati sita Devi]

to leave before they left even when the partition of the country had taken place and Pakistan had come into being. He continued to stay there till the last along with some other Congress workers including myself, while all others had fled. So, who can be more aware of the sufferings and the losses that our refugee brethren had had to undergo before they crossed over, than him who saw everything with his own eyes? And who can claim to have the welfare of the refugees more at heart than him, who loves them so dearly and has made it his life mission to serve them? But, Sir, it is with great regret that in this connection I have to refer to the old adage : -

ਜੋ ਕੋਯਲੇ ਕੀ ਕਾਨ ਮੈਂ ਗਯਾ ਕੋਯਲਾ ਹੀ ਹੋ ਗਯਾ ।
ਜੋ ਕੋਯਲੇ ਕੀ ਕਾਨ ਮੈਂ ਗਿਆ ਕੋਯਲਾ ਹੀ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ।

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please speak on the Bill under discussion.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, this is the introduction.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Yes, Sir, everything has its own introduction. I am just going to explain the background of this Bill. I am going to throw light on the circumstances leading to this Bill. After the partition, when millions of our brethren after facing great hardships and sufferings, entered the territory of the Indian Dominion, they heaved a sigh of relief and began to build new hopes. Despite the fact that they had lost their hearths and homes and all their belongings, they were not so full of despair at that time as they are now. Some hope still fluttered in their hearts at that time since they felt they were at last in their own country. Now you will find them the very embodiment of despair.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It appears as though the hon. Lady Member is speaking on the demand and not the Bill.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I was submitting that when our refugee brothers came to this State, they were under the impression that they would be given some facilities by way of housing etc, but nothing of the kind happened. They had to suffer the severities of the weather i.e. heat, cold and rain in the camps. Some of them who had money made their way to Delhi and other provinces for want of decision regarding building of the capital. But poor folk had no other place than the camps to live in. The Government kept on promising them that all possible schemes would be put through to bring about their rehabilitation. Unfortunately the Government schemes and plans only remained on paper for considerably long time. After all when the patience of these refugees had been almost exhausted some houses were built by the Government but I think the less said about these houses the better it would be. However, if not the refugees, the contractors have been greatly benefitted. They have built hopeless houses. Apart from the fact that these houses are not durable they are not fit for habitation. There are no court yards attached to them and they are far from being comfortable. But

refugees being helpless had to go in for them. It appears as if the Government thinks that as the refugees have been able to purchase the houses they must be well off and should be subjected to some further burden. It wishes to charge them a fee of rupees three and eight annas per month for lighting and rupees six and eight annas per month for water supply. These charges are very exorbitant and it is not possible for a poor refugee to pay ten rupees a month for electricity and water. I am in a position to say that in the West Punjab expenses on these two items seldom came to ten rupees a month in an ordinary family. I can very well imagine what the hon. Minister will say when he gets up to give a reply. He will say that these estimates have been prepared by his experts. The public knows the worth of these experts. Did not these experts build the houses which were so worthless that they could not be disposed of in spite of large scale advertisement in the newspapers? I may tell the hon. Minister that there is a good deal of scope for reduction in the estimate prepared by the experts and he should not rely on them. It would be better if he verifies things for himself. I agree that it must be very difficult for any Government or an organization to rehabilitate lakhs of displaced people but we should do all we can to render them help with whatever means we have at our disposal. If we have not been able to give them good houses, we should not burden them with heavy fees which they cannot pay. In these circumstances I make an earnest request to the hon. Minister that he should reduce the charges which he has proposed.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division Landholders) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, my hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi has said a good deal about this Bill and I am at one with her. However, I would like to mention one or two points in addition to what she has been pleased to say.

Firstly, I wish to submit that the fee of ten rupees a month is too much and only half of it should be considered as adequate. In my opinion this must be done, at any rate at the present time, even if the Government has to suffer some loss. I do not mean to suggest that this reduction be made permanent. The reduction should be effected for such time as the refugees are not in a position to pay and they may be made to pay the full fee when they are well off.

The second thing is that this fee is to be paid on the 5th of every month and in case of non-payment, interest is to be charged at the rate of 6 per cent. I am surprised to find this provision for charging such a high rate of interest. No such provision exists in any other State. Even in U. P. where the Government dues are very mercilessly collected, no interest is charged.

My third submission is that the Government is acquiring a power for exempting some people from the payment of fees. I welcome this provision.

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann]

But I suggest that this power should not be exercised by the Government as the people would always be bothering the hon. Minister unnecessarily. This power should be delegated to some officer who after due inquiry may order exemptions in deserving cases. Another thing which I wish to submit is that no distinction has been made between the refugees and non-refugees in the matter of allotment of vacant sites in the new townships. I shall request the Government to give preference to the refugees in this matter because they cannot compete with non-refugees in giving bids. In several cases the refugees wanted to purchase these sites but could not do so in competition with non-refugees.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I find not one group but six groups talking in the House so loudly that nobody can hear the speech.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, have we closed the lobbies ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No; if the hon. Members want to talk, they should go to the lobbies.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : I request the hon. Minister concerned to look into this matter and to order that vacant sites should be given to non-refugees in those cases only where no refugee wishes to purchase them. I hope that the Government will take necessary steps in this direction.

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water-Supply) Fees Bill which the Government has brought before the House is apparently a very small Bill but I am sorry to note that its provisions are based on an undesirable principle. The Government has been daily requested in this House to expedite the rehabilitation of displaced persons and to reduce their difficulties but I find that instead of doing so, they are being burdened with more taxes. It has been said that the fees chargeable under this Bill will be about ten rupees but my objection is not to the amount of fees but to the principle on which the Bill is based. The Government seeks to obtain the power of charging fees for the supply of water and street-lights in the new townships. This is not a proper thing to do. Sooner or later all these towns will come under the jurisdiction of one Municipal Committee or another. It is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that—

The Government are persuading the Municipal Committees concerned to extend their jurisdiction so as to include these townships and when this is done, the municipalities would bear the cost of provision of street-lighting. In the interim period it is necessary to impose a fee on the residents of townships so as to meet the cost of street lighting.

When these towns are to ultimately come under the control of Municipal Committees why should not these be asked to arrange for the supply of water and

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street-lights from now? If this measure is intended for the interim period only, may I know if the fees realized now would be refunded when these townships are placed under the Municipal Committees? I shall request the Government to ask the Municipal Committees to do this work at their own expense. If some of these plead lack of funds, the Government may give them the required help. Those fees should in no case be charged from the refugees.

Then, Sir, I wish to refer to the provisions of one or two other clauses of this Bill. It is stated in clause 5 (1) that—

The fees shall be paid by the purchaser on or before the 5th of the month to which it relates or within a fortnight of the receipt of demand when it relates to the past period—

Some of these townships were established about a year or a year and a half back. The Government proposes to realize the fees for that period in one instalment and within fifteen days of the receipt of demand. It would not be proper to take action against a person who can not pay the whole amount within that period. Instead of demanding the payment of fees for the past period in one instalment, it would have been better if its payment had been allowed to be made in five or six instalments.

Then, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to clause 7 of the proposed Bill. It is stated there that—

The decision of the State Government as to the levy of the fee and the person liable therefor shall be final and no suit shall lie in any court to question any matter whatever in relation to this Act or the rules made thereunder.

Provisions of this kind are made only in political Bills which are intended for the maintenance of law and order. These can find place in the Public Safety Act or some other enactment of that nature. To provide in this Bill that no appeal shall lie against the decision of the Government as to the levy of the fees, is highly arbitrary. This provision should be withdrawn by the Government. On the one hand we say that all possible facilities should be provided for the rehabilitation of displaced persons and their hardships lessened, while on the other hand we are increasing their difficulties by levying fees.

Then, Sir, the question is not of one's ability or otherwise to pay these fees. Why should not the municipal committees be asked to provide water and street-lighting to these townships. As I have already submitted, if some municipal committees cannot do so for financial reasons, the Government should provide them the necessary funds. With these words I shall request the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation, who has established some

[Shri Virendra]

reputation for his sympathy with the refugees, not to bring forward Bills of this kind, which are likely to bring him bad name. This is not the question of his personal reputation only, reputation of the Government as a whole is involved in it. The hon. Minister is putting his reputation as also of the Government at stake by levying such taxes which are very much like fines, on the displaced persons. So far as the clauses like the one regarding the payment of arrears of taxes within 15 days, are concerned, they are harsh and most arbitrary. As a matter of fact, provision should also have been made for exemption from payment of these taxes, in the case of those displaced persons who are not in a position to pay. But we see that the provisions of this Bill are actually like the provisions of Public Safety Act. I, therefore, submit that the Government should withdraw these arbitrary provisions of this Bill.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, to me this Bill appears to be unnecessary. The Bill lays down that these fees will be levied only for the interim period till such times as the municipalities take over these townships. I do not want to repeat the arguments that have been advanced by my hon. Friend Shri Virendra but I would like to point out that under the very conditions of sale it has been laid down that amenities of life such as street lighting and water supply etc., will be provided in the townships. And even otherwise, I am of the opinion that it is the duty of the Government to provide these amenities of life to the people residing in these townships. So far as I am aware, I am of course subject to correction by the hon. Minister, that under the terms of sale, it has been specifically mentioned that street lighting and water supply will be provided by the Government. In these circumstances, I beg to submit that the fees that are proposed to be levied under this Bill are excessive and unjustified and it will indeed be a great hardship on the poor refugees if they are forced to pay such fees. Various complaints have been made to the hon. Minister that the prices of these houses are excessive and that they are not properly built and are 'kutcha' and in the face of all those complaints to levy such exorbitant fees would be very harsh on the uprooted and unfortunate refugees. With these remarks I would urge upon the Government the desirability of reconsidering the matter before rushing through the measure in this House.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Luhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, we have seen many Bills, but we have seldom come across a strange Bill like the present one. I am pained to see two clauses of this Bill. The first of these two clauses lays down that the Bill shall be applicable not only to the purchaser but it shall have both prospective and retrospective effect. The word purchaser as defined in the Bill, includes the predecessors and successors of interest of such purchaser. If the father or grandfather of a

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person is already dead this tax will be realized even from those dead persons. If this Bill were to apply to the successors only, it could be understood. But its application even to predecessors of the purchaser is really not understandable. Under this Bill even grandfathers will not be exempted from the payment of this tax.

These townships were originally built to provide houses to refugees and also to relieve the shortage of houses to some extent. But the refugees had no money to purchase those houses. The Government offered to give them loans. Very few people have purchased those houses with their own resources. As a matter of fact, if loans had not been given, hardly 5 percent of the refugees would have purchased those houses. What induced them to do so was the idea of getting loans. Secondly they wanted some sort of shelter. Now the Government is imposing a tax of Rs. 10 per mensem on those displaced persons for street lighting and water supply. The minds of our Chief Engineers are obsessed with the ideas of the millionaires of America, as was obvious from the film shown to us the other day. If they had thought of our own people they would not have spent so much on the houses built in the townships. The displaced persons are made to pay very high prices for those houses. A house costs as high a sum as Rs. 5,000. This price, it is said, includes development charges as well. Over and above all this, they are now going to be taxed for street lighting and water supply at the rate of Rs. 3 annas 8 per mensem for street lighting and Rs. 6 annas 8 per mensem for water supply. Then the Government has stated that Municipalities would be induced to take over these townships as early as possible. Some of these townships are so remote from the areas of the Municipal Committees that they cannot come within the Municipal limits even in 30 years. Some are situated at three miles and some at one and a half miles from the limits of the Municipal Committees. Besides, the economic condition of most of the Municipal Committees at present is not so good that they would be prepared to take upon themselves the heavy responsibility of these townships. If the hon. Minister could, however, assure us that those townships would be brought within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Committees, in the next six months, we could have considered it. But the situation as it is today does not warrant any such hope. Under these circumstances to say that the roads should be made more attractive and that the townships should be improved in other ways does not appear to be proper. My submission is that before this House passes this Bill in its present form the hon. Members should thoroughly consider whether it will be of any good to the State. They should try to find out the views of the refugees who are to bear the burden of additional taxes. Can the refugees really pay rupees three and a half per month for electricity for street lighting? It is strange that those who

[Sadar Bachan singh]

are to pay a sum of rupees ten per month are not even asked to give their consent to it. This tax is not of the nature of taxes which the Government impose in connection with stamps and excise etc. On the other hand it is by way of State Trading. It should by its very motive be levied with the consent and agreement of those who are to pay it. Moreover there is another point which should not be lost sight of in this connection. Are the refugees in a position to pay this tax? Simply because they are in an the favourable position of being house tenants, they should not be compelled to pay it. Even at present the rents they are paying are beyond their capacity to pay. Earlier they were given to understand that they will have to pay ten, fifteen or at the most twenty rupees. Now an additional sum of rupees ten is being asked for from them. There is no justification for it. If we look at the condition of the houses in these townships we will find it quite unsatisfactory. Although the houses were built only recently they appear to be giving way before heavy rains. The experiment of mixing cement with clay is not going to yield any successful results. I fear that the houses might come down and become heaps of clay. If such an unfortunate thing happens what will our street lighting do? In such a case the poor refugees will be put to a lot of trouble. Instead of spending on street lighting etc, I would appeal to the Government, in the first instance, to send for a party of able Engineers from some other state in order to carry out a survey of these townships to find out the life of such houses. I think they will tell us the actual state of affairs. An enquiry should be made in this matter before any further steps by way of improvement are taken in these townships. Any how I wish that the refugees should be consulted because it is a matter which concerns them. Every democratic Government is expected to consult the wishes of its people in the matters of this nature. I would suggest that in view of all this the hon. Ministers will carry out a polling so as to know what the people affected by this Bill desire. It will be a good thing if their feelings are taken into consideration. In Punjabi a saying goes :—

ਓਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨਥ ਬਡਾਣ ਨੂੰ ।

ਓਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨਕ ਵਡਾਣ ਨੂੰ ।

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨੱਥ ਘੜਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ ।

ਉਹ ਫਿਰੇ ਨੱਕ ਵਢਾਉਣ ਨੂੰ ।

As a matter of fact the refugees are agitating against the inadequacy of the steps taken by the Government by way of providing relief to them, while our Government is bringing in such legislative measures as we have before the House. Only a few days back I received a letter from Shri D. C. Narula, General Secretary of Sharnarthi Sabha. He has written that 75 percent of the refugees are feeling the effects of the slump which is so much in evidence that it has become difficult to give them rations.

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As a matter of fact it has become extremely difficult to get a means of livelihood. Of course, Government has been kind towards the refugees in some respects. However they will feel obliged to the Government if it decides that within a period of six months all the townships will be taken within the limits of the various municipal committees. I shall be glad, for example, to see that the Ludhiana Municipal Committee's limits are extended so as to include the townships within a period of six months. In that case the people will have the satisfaction that these provisions are a temporary measure for only six months' time. If for six months even a higher rate is levied it is understandable. But we feel that these increases are not for six months only but for much longer periods. Under the circumstances we have to consider the question in the light of the fact that the consent of those from whom these taxes are to be got is essential. Without such an agreement and consent the levying of these taxes is quite unjustified and the position of the Government in this matter is quite untenable. It has no right to demand three and a half rupees for street-lighting and six and a half rupees per month for the supply of water in the absence of any agreement or consent of those who are to consume these. Government has never made any agreement with the house tenants with regard to these rates of electricity and water. So the proper position is that a decision about the rates should be made with the party who is directly effected by it. We should also consider whether such high rates exist in other cities like Ludhiana, Jagadhari and Amritsar for street lighting and water etc. Moreover the fact, that in the new townships we have the refugees as tenants, should not be lost sight of. These people have already suffered heavy losses and we should try to be lenient to them in such matters. As a matter of fact the new townships should be taken in the limits of the municipal areas as soon as possible.

Minister for Labour : We are trying to do so within six months or a year.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I shall be glad if this is done especially in the case of Ludhiana.

Minister for Labour : Ludhiana is not yet in our plan.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I wish to submit that our Government is like a "*Lapor sunkh*". It can make schemes of any nature but when the question of putting them into practice arises it miserably fails. We are aware of the various schemes which were put in the Budget but which were never translated into action. What I wish to say is that the present proposals concerning the rates of electricity for street-lighting and water supply should be referred to the people for eliciting public opinion. A chance should be given to the people concerned to express their views on the matter.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, it has been stated in the objects and reasons attached to the Bill, that it is an interim measure. The hon. Minister for Labour, who is also in charge of local bodies, has supported this view only a short while ago. But I want to place facts before the House, which will show that it will take very long before these townships come under the jurisdiction of the municipal committees concerned. I take Rohtak for instance. I have personal knowledge of the facts about the township which has been built there at a distance of two or three miles from the city. Knowing full well the conditions of Municipal Committee, Rohtak, I can safely say that it will not be possible for it to extend its jurisdiction to this township for three or four years. Similarly I know things about the Karnal and Panipat Municipal Committees which will not be able to bring the townships within their jurisdiction for a considerable period. I fail to understand what was the idea behind the schemes of the P. W. D. or the Rehabilitation Department to build these townships at such a long distance from the cities. If the object was that they would ultimately come under the jurisdiction of the municipal committees concerned, then they should not have constructed them at a far off distance from the cities. I am therefore of the view that there is not the remotest possibility or the slightest likelihood of these municipalities extending their jurisdiction so as to include these townships, within a period of six months as has been stated by the Government. Consequently the construction of houses for which Government have advanced loans amounting to lakhs of rupees or have made a provision for purposes of distributing the money among the refugees, who have purchased plots of land in these townships, will receive a serious set back. I am sure that when those plots were auctioned to the refugees, the prices included the cost of these amenities. But it is a thousand pities that Government have decided to impose a fee of Rs. 10/- per house in these townships for meeting the cost of street lighting and water supply for lawns and gardens. It is in clear contravention of the contract made in the sale deeds of those plots. I may sound a note of warning to the Government that this action of theirs does not augur well. It is a precursor of the coming danger which on the one hand will add to the difficulties of the poor refugees and on the other retard the programme of the Government for the rehabilitation of the refugees.

I am of the opinion that the levy of Rs. 3/8 towards the cost of street lighting and Rs. 6/8 for water supply, is uncalled for, and Government should refrain from imposing it. If they feel that they must, then it should not be with retrospective effect. In this connection I would request the Rehabilitation Minister to peruse the sale deeds and he will find that it is no longer provided there in that any charge will be levied for meeting the cost of

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the supply of water for lawns etc., and street lighting. I may inform him that from 1800 to Rs. two thousand were charged per kanal by the Government. Such a high price included the cost of street lighting etc. Then the rents of these houses have been increased by one and half times. If the hon. Minister takes all these facts into consideration, he will realise that the refugee is already so much burdened that the increase in rent as well as the proposed levy of Rs. 10 per mensem would break his back. May I know whether Government are levying this charge of Rs. 10/- per house under the impression that the refugees will be able to bear it because they have paid the cost of plots or houses? They are entirely mistaken in their view because it was with great difficulty that the refugees arranged this money. I may again point out that if the Government insist on the passing of this Bill, then this would certainly have an adverse effect on their rehabilitation programme. I feel that it is really unfair to impose this heavy charge of Rs. 3/8 for street lighting and Rs. 6/8 for water supply on the refugees. I fail to understand on what basis these charges have been calculated. I know from my personal experience in Rohtak that the maximum amount of a bill for water supply per house comes to Rs. 3/- or 4/- per mensem. But what will be the condition of the houses in the townships, which are for the present outside the jurisdiction of the municipal committees? The flow of the water will be less as the supply line will be very long and yet the charges per house will be Rs. 6/8 and that too for water which will not be consumed by the refugees for personal use. Similarly our electric energy bills ordinarily amount to Rs. 2/8 or 3/- per house. But here under the provision of this Bill the refugees will be required to pay Rs. 3/8 for street lighting only and not for the energy which will be consumed in his house for domestic use. So this is an uncalled for burden on the refugees. If the Government are compelled to enact this measure into law for want of funds at their disposal, then they should not rush through it but postpone it for some time and in the meantime they should tap some other avenue to overcome this difficulty. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if this Bill is passed, it will add to the hardships of the refugees. Not only this. New houses in the townships will not be constructed and the housing problem with which the Government are faced, will further deteriorate. I hope Government will give a careful consideration to my suggestions and will not proceed with the Bill.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*): Sir, through you, I wish to point out to the Government that so far as construction of new townships is concerned, they have altogether ignored the fact that the refugees are steeped into poverty. It appears that gentlemen at the helm of affairs are completely under the influence of the Western civilization, which is a legacy of the British Government. They should have known

[Ch. Sundar Singh]

that here the question was, how best shelter should be provided to the poor refugees and not that houses should be built at far off distances from the cities on Western lines. Unluckily they have visited Europe and America and they think that since it is difficult for them to mould their own living and construct their houses on American style, the refugees at least must have their habitations on those lines. (*Laughter*). If this is the goal which the Government want to achieve, in the matter of rehabilitation of refugees on American style, then it is natural that they must burden the poor refugees with additional charges for street lighting and water supply for gardens. I may point out that the refugees are too impoverished to bear this burden which is being put on them in the form of levies as proposed in the Bill. I may remind them that Mahatma Gandhi used to stay in Harijan colony and avoid living in palatial buildings because he identified himself with the poverty-stricken millions of India.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave aside reference to Mahatma Gandhi in this matter.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : I am perfectly relevant, Sir. However I bow to your ruling. Let me quote another instance. A villager came to Lahore and found that the people eased themselves in lavatories which were built in their own houses. He liked this idea because in his own village he had to go to a distance place for the purpose of easing himself. He was determined to make a Lahore of his Village. On his return to his village, he availed himself of the nearest depression of land to ease himself. The people of the village took strong exception to this and advised him to ease himself in the yonder fields. He sighed and said that he wanted to convert his village into Lahore but the people would not allow him. (*Laughter*). Similarly the Rehabilitation Department wants to rehabilitate the refugees on American style but the hon. Members raise objections to this. (*Renewed laughter*). I cannot help making a mention of our revered Mahatma Gandhi. He led a simple life because he wanted others to lead simple lives in view of the general poverty of the people. He used to stay in the bhangi colony because he felt that a poor Indian could not afford to live in palaces. We know that there is an acute scarcity of houses in cities and people are going without a shelter, but there are a few people who are living in spacious houses and they cannot accommodate poor people. So what I wanted to drive at is that the houses in the new townships should have been constructed in such a manner that they should not have been situated at a far off distance from the cities. Then it would have been easy for the municipal committees to extend their jurisdiction to them and the question of the levy of this charge for street lighting and water supply for gardens would not have arisen. I may point out that the refugees are so poor that they have got these houses after taking loans. So far as Harijan refugees are concerned, none of them

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has been able to purchase even one house in these townships. I wonder if they would be provided with mud huts even. I am, therefore, constrained to remark that that spirit is lacking in the Government with which they ought to have rehabilitated the poor refugees. So far as this clause is concerned, I find there are some defects in it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Better discuss this point when the Bill is discussed clause by clause.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Sir, it is crystal clear from the Bill now before the House that the Government may by special order exempt any purchaser from the payment of the fee or the interest accrued due as the case may be. It appears to me that by providing this exemption clause, Government want to resort to favouritism. If this clause is not deleted, I am sure, we will be giving a chance to the concerned officers to resort to corruption. I am really surprised that the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation should introduce this legislative measure for charging fees from the refugees in connection with street lighting and water supply.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is again indulging in repetition.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Question be now put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put

The motion was carried.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : Sir, I rise to say a few words in reply to certain objections raised by some of my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches, with regard to the Bill now before the House. It has been said that I should not have introduced this Bill which aims at charging fees from the refugees for street lighting and water supply. If it were within my power I would have seen that our refugee brethren had not to pay even a single penny for their rehabilitation and the expenditure incurred in this connection would have been either paid by the Central Government or by the people of India who have not suffered any loss due to the partition. But unfortunately I am living in such a world where it has been experienced that whenever it is proposed to give some concession to our refugee brethren, objections are raised by some of my hon. Friends to the effect that no discriminatory treatment should be meted out to them as no such provision existed in the Constitution, according to which it could be justified. However, I would like to bring this point home to my hon.

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Friends and assure them that no one could feel more hurt than myself whenever it is proposed to impose any levies on the refugees. I really feel that every pie drawn from the pockets of our refugee brethren is drawn out of my own pocket.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of Order, Sir. Is the hon. Minister speaking on the Bill, now before the House or referring to his personal experience ?

Minister For Rehabilitation : Since I happen to be the Minister-in-charge of the department, it is my duty to reply to the criticisms advanced by my hon. Friends and the Lady Member. If I do not do so it would be construed that Ministers do not care to reply to the criticisms advanced by the hon. Members. Under the circumstances it is essential on my part to reply to the criticisms advanced by my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches. I take this opportunity of making this point clear that so far as this Bill regarding the imposition of the proposed levies is concerned, it has been prepared with my full knowledge and that it has been brought in for their active consideration with my approval. In this connection there is one point to which I wish to invite the attention of my hon. Friends and that is, that while drafting this Bill certain things have not been considered and I assure them that I shall discuss these things with the department thoroughly.

It has been said by the hon. Lady Member that the Ministers or the Cabinet should not accept the advice of the experts and that they should not depend upon their advice. There are certain matters about which the Ministers or the Cabinet cannot make any correct estimate as they do not possess full knowledge about certain technical matters. A Minister however efficient he may be may not be an engineer. Similarly it is not expected of a doctor to know anything and everything about engineering. It is, therefore, crystal clear from this that a Minister who happens to be a doctor whose profession it is to deal with diseases cannot be expected to know the work of an engineer. Hence this necessity of accepting the advice of the experts. At the same time I would like to point out that before accepting such expert advice, we probe into the pros and cons of the matter with a view to be sure about it that it will not result in any injustice to people.

It has been said that the rates charged in the proposed Bill are very high. In this connection I would like to point out that the concerned officials of the department who have made this estimate are of the opinion that nothing more has been charged than the actual expenses. This department is not a money-making concern and as such no profits would be made by charging more money from them than

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the actual expenses. It is therefore the intention of the Government to realize the same amount that would actually be incurred in this connection. I wish to assure them that no profits are being made by charging extra money from the refugees. I take this opportunity of assuring them once again that as soon as I am free from the Session, I along with these officials who have made this estimate shall examine more thoroughly the cost which is proposed to be levied and if I find that even a pie was more than what should have been charged I will see that that pie is not charged and if it has already been charged, it is refunded.

It has further been said that it was wrong to levy such fees. It has also been said that the Bill is unnecessary. Electricity is a great necessity. My hon. Friends have themselves been laying stress on the point that providing of electricity and water supply to the new colonies is the need of the hour. It was in deference to the wishes of my hon. Friends that the Government provided electricity to these colonies. Hence the imposition of this levy. It was also felt necessary to provide street light for these colonies in the interests of the security of the houses. In the absence of any street light in these colonies there is every likelihood of thefts and other accidents. It is clear from this that refugees who pay Rs. 42/- per annum as street lighting charges have no such worry and they do not run the risk of losing their everything, hence the dire necessity of street lighting.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Nowadays thefts are committed even in the broad day light.

Minister for Rehabilitation : The people of these colonies were day in and day out requesting the Government to provide them with street lights in the interests of the security of their houses, and Government has not spent any more money than was necessary in this direction. However I assure my hon. Friends that if it is found that more money has been charged than what has actually been spent, fees would be charged accordingly and the balance would also be refunded to them. When these townships will be taken over by the municipal committees the residents will have to pay more than the present charges. Though the water levy appears to be high and I had myself felt so in the beginning—yet for all the arrangements which the Government will have to make for making water available at such a long distance as the townships are located the charge is not very heavy. You may imagine Sir, that if a person has to engage a servant for bringing water for him, his pay and other expenses would not amount to less than Rs. 60/ or Rs. 70/- per mensem. The water charges outwardly appear

[Minister for Rehabilitation.]

to be excessive but in fact this charge is not so much keeping in view the long distance at which these townships are located.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Minister has not made it clear whether water will be supplied in the houses or at the roads as already stated by him.

Minister for Rehabilitation: I may inform the hon. Lady Member that the Government is making water available to the house-owners at their premises. I may assure the House that I would examine the rates that are now proposed to be levied and if I find that a pie is more than what should have been charged it would be refunded at once. The department has assured me that no profit is being made in charging the amount.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : May I know how the water charges will be reduced if these have once been fixed. [*Voices :* It is only a *laralappa* (wild promise)].

Minister for Rehabilitation: It is not so. I have been told by the department that actual charges for water supply are being charged from the house-owners. I again assure the House that if it is found that the rate is higher than the actual cost, I will see that the amount is reduced by introducing an amending Bill in the House. The amount charged in excess will certainly be refunded. The Government have not the least intention whatsoever to make any profit from the refugees and these charges are levied on the basis of 'no loss, no profit'. The Government will never think of getting any profit and will not mind if there is some loss to it. It has been said as to why these townships have not been taken over by the municipal committees, but I know that as soon as this is done, my hon. Friends will bear testimony to the fact that the house-owners will have to pay more to the municipal committees than they are being asked to pay now. Government is very anxious that the municipal committees should extend their jurisdiction to these townships as early as possible. But the difficulty is that the committees are hesitant to take over these townships on account of their being located at a long distance from the main towns. However, the Government is persuading the municipal committees and my hon. Friends should also exert their pressure on them to take over these townships so that they may come under one control. It has also been pointed out that interest should not be charged but I would like to submit that the Government has also secured money on loan and has to pay it back with interest. So it becomes necessary for the Government to charge interest as well. My hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh has raised the objection that development charges include charges for water supply and street lighting, and therefore, it should form part of the duty of the Government to give these civic amenities to the residents. But I may point out to my hon. Friend that the development charges are for building the road and do not

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include water supply or street lighting. These charges will be recovered by instalments. The Government wanted to provide water supply and street lighting as early as possible and did not like to wait till such time as the townships could be taken over by the municipal committees. We wanted that no refugee should remain without water and lighting in these townships. My hon. Friend Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann has pointed out that the authority to exempt any payment should have been left to some officer. But I may submit that the clause would be employed only in a very few cases and in very unforeseen circumstances. It is the duty of the residents to pay all charges for water and street lighting. This law is applicable to all refugees alike and does not make any concession in anybody's favour. It has also been said that the plots should be given to refugees only. The Government has always been guided by such principle and the plots will be sold to refugees. As regards the houses that have remained unsold, it is the intention of the Government to give preference to refugees and in case no refugee is willing to purchase the house it would be given to non-refugees. I may assure the hon. Members that no competition between the refugees and non-refugees for the purchase of houses and plots will be encouraged. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sunder Singh has remarked that Government money has been wasted on building parks and making the townships on the model of America. I quite agree with the hon. Friends who say that the houses have not been properly built. I think if a little care was exercised better houses could have been built. But since these have now been completed, the refugees should make the best use of them now. I actually cannot promise but in view of large number of complaints received by the Government in this behalf I am contemplating to form a committee of experts which would give its finding as to who is at fault. Government, however, cannot escape from the responsibility and it, therefore, feel advised to make enquiry into the matter as to why better houses could not be built.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would like to bring it to the notice of of the hon Minister in-charge that the prices of the houses should have been considerably lowered.

Minister for Rehabilitation : My hon. Friend perhaps does not know that these houses were sold at much less than the cost price. An enquiry will, however, be made as to why improper use of Government money was made while raising these townships. (*Voices :* What useful purpose will it serve at this stage ?)

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : May I know whether this committee will consist of officials only or will also include Members of this House ?

Minister for Rehabilitation: Such a committee will include Engineers who will be able to give expert opinion as to who has been responsible for defective construction of the houses. The question of inclusion of Members of this House does not arise as they will not be in a position to give their expert advice in the matter.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: Does it mean that our knowledge is less than that of Engineers in this matter?

Minister for Rehabilitation: I will, however, be there on your behalf. I must say that it was a mistake to build refugee townships on the model of America. Anyhow, when it is an accomplished fact, they should make the best use of it now. There is a redeeming feature also being away from the over crowded cities the atmosphere of these townships is very healthy. I feel that if my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sundar Singh was made to live in those townships which have open air and good light he would improve greatly in health as compared to his brother who might be made to live in the dirty lanes of Gurdaspur. And the difference in the appearance and the physique of the two will be evident. One who lives in one of these townships for a year and enjoys the benefit of open air and sunshine will be found to be much more healthy than one who has lived in the lanes of some old town like Gurdaspur. In this way, Sir, good will come out of evil and the refugees who are not having two square meals a day will be able to have some compensation in the form of nourishment supplied by the sun and the pure air.

Shri Virendra has objected as to why dates have been fixed for monthly payment of fees and the payment of arrears within a fortnight of the receipt of the demand. I may assure my Friend that it is far from Government's intention to put the refugees to hardship. Whenever a tax is levied, some dates have to be fixed for its payment. If this is not done, arrears will accumulate and then question will be asked as to why realization has not been made in time. We want that realization should not fall into arrear and that is why dates have been fixed. Then it is useless to try to read into this Bill things which are not there. The intention of the Government is clear and evident viz., to charge from the refugees fees to meet the expenses of street lighting and water supply. I may assure the House that care will be taken to see that the operation of this measure does not result in any undue hardship to the refugees concerned. I would, therefore, request that this Bill be passed in its present form without any amendment. If on experience, it is found that some concession should be given to the refugees concerned, the Government will bring an amending Bill before the House. Moreover, the money that will be thus realized, will continue to be spent for their benefit. With these words, I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

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Mr. Speaker : Question is---

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water Supply) Fees Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses (2) and (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is---

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause I stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2 and 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is---

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :
I move---

That in sub clause (1) line 2, for the word and figures "Rs. 3-8-0," the word and figures "Rs. 0-8-0" and in line 3, for the word and figures "Rs. 6-8-0" the word and figures "Rs. 1-8-0" be substituted.

Sir, at first I had decided to press for the deletion of this clause. Later on, after giving more thought to the matter, I came to the conclusion that this Government would not let the poor refugees go untaxed and even if this clause were deleted here, some other way would be found to charge these fees from them. When the houses in these townships were auctioned, some sort of understanding was given to the buyers that the cost of the houses included the cost of provision of such amenities as electricity and water supply. Now that the Government has decided to resile from that position, it would be futile to expect it to honour its words, even though it agrees to withdraw this Bill.

Sir, I am not at all in favour of making any such levy on the poor refugees who are finding it difficult even to pay the cost of the houses. It is after a good deal of reflection that I have decided to move these amendments since in their case, some concession, however,

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

little, would be better than none. I want that the fee for street-lighting should be annas eight instead of Rs. 3/8/- per mensem and that for water supply Rs. 1/8/- instead of Rs. 6/8'-. The Hon. Minister has in his speech stated that investigation will again be made into the matter and if it is found that undue hardship is being caused to refugees, some concession will be given. I am surprised to note, Sir, that the hon. Minister has brought this Bill before the House without making proper investigation into the matter.

I have to point out with regret, Sir, that if the hon. Minister had had a full realization of his responsibilities, he would not have tried to take the time of the House unnecessarily, by bringing this Bill without proper investigation of the matter.

Minister For Rehabilitation : What my Friend is saying is not correct. I had said that full investigation had been made before bringing this Bill in the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister had assured the House that if on investigation it was found that even a single pie had been charged unduly from any refugee, he would see to it that it was refunded. But so far as the Bill is concerned, we do not find any such provision made therein. Nor is there any provision which can be interpreted to mean that the Government would have the power to grant any remission in these fees in any deserving cases. We wish if the hon. Minister had given a little more thought to this matter, such heavy fees would not have been proposed. May I know if the hon. Ministers before giving his approval to this proposal, tried to ascertain the expenses per house that the Municipal Committee of any town has to bear in connection with the street-lighting arrangement? Surely if such facts and figures were collected, it would be easily realized that the rate of the proposed fees is unfair and too heavy. Is there a single town in the State, whose Municipality is spending Rs. 3-8-0 per house in connection with street lighting? Can the hon. Minister cite, the instance of one such town? Sir, the fact of the matter is that as usual, our Minister can find no time to go into such details, and consult the experts. It is certainly less bother-some to agree to whatever proposal is made by the officers of the department.

Sir, I think this Bill has not received the consideration it deserved before it was brought to this House. It is not based on any sound arguments or facts and figures and should not be passed. The hon. Minister adduced a very interesting argument for charging fee for electricity. He said that in the absence of street lighting there may be thefts in the

town-ships and consequently some householders may be put to losses of thousands or hundreds rupees. This reminds me of the strange argument which the 'Suthras' (a kind of beggars) advance while asking for alms.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Order please ! Such words should not be used.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the word "Suthra" unparliamentary ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The way in which this word has been used is undesirable. The hon. Member has said : "Such arguments are advanced by Suthras". It is objectionable. The hon. Member should remember that every word that is uttered on the floor of the House is being taken down. Hon. Members should be as polite and parliamentary as possible. These proceedings will go down to posterity.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I have a great respect for the Minister-in-charge. I was only saying that these 'Suthras' when they ask for alms threaten the people that in case they do not give half a pice they might lose their dear ones and in that circumstance they would be put to heavy expenditure for cremation and going to Hardwar etc. This was exactly the way in which the hon. Minister wished to charge the electricity fee from the people. He said that it was better for them to pay these charges than suffer losses from thefts. This is certainly no sound argument. I could have understood if he were to say that they should pay something to the exchequer as they, I mean the refugees, make lakhs, thousands or even hundreds of rupees a year. That is not the case. Everybody knows full well that these poor people find hard to make both ends meet. Whatever little they had with them when they came from the West Punjab, they have spent and are penniless now. I wonder how they will manage to pay the price of their houses even by instalments.

Sir, I do not mean to appeal only to the sentiment of the hon. Members while speaking on the clause under consideration. I wish to deal with it on the basis of facts and figures. I would ask the House not to vote for any measure simply because the Government so desires. We should always be led by facts and the facts clearly show that the refugees have not got sufficient income to enable them to bear the burden of heavy charges. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister who is an old Congress worker and who is serving as a Bhabhikhshan in a so called Ram Raj that he should try to help the refugees and sympathize with them. I have called him a Bhabhikhshan because he is one of the refugees, but this does not mean that other refugees

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are 'Rakhshasas' (Demons) and that they should be finished as such. The refugees deserve all help and sympathy and this the Government should give them in case it values a good name. The present attitude of the Government is very reprehensible. It appears to be acting like 'Acharajs' when it attempts to extract money from helpless people. It is true these unfortunate people were very well off at one time but now they are little better than living carcasses. In these circumstances, it would be in the fitness of things if my amendment is accepted. However, if my suggestion proves inadequate, the losses, if any, can be made good by some subsequent measure.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (1) line 2, for the word and figures "Rs. 3-8-0" the word and figures Rs. "0-8-0" and in line 3, for the word and figures "Rs. 6-8-0", the word and figures "Rs. 1-8 0" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) : I move—

That in sub-clause (1) for the words "the fee at the rate of Rs. 3-8-0 for street lighting and Rs. 6-8-0 for water supply" the words "fees at a rate not exceeding Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 6-8-0 for street lighting and water supply respectively", be substituted.

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is that the Government may, if it so desires, charge fees at a lesser rate than those put in the clause.

Shri Virendra : Is the hon. Member moving this amendment on behalf of the Government ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I am simply moving my amendment. It is up to the Government to accept it or not.

Shri Virendra : May I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government will reduce the rates when the initial charges have been met ?

Minister For Rehabilitation : Certainly.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, Amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (1) for the words "the fee at the rate of Rs. 3-8-0 for street lighting and Rs. 6-8-0 for water supply", the words "fees at a rate not exceeding Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 6-8-0 for street lighting and water supply respectively" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 5

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural)
(Hindi): I move——

That in sub-clause (4), line 2, for the figure "6", the figure "3" be substituted.

Sir, I wish to make a few observations about this clause. A few days back, the hon. Chief Minister stated in reply to one of my questions that the Government did not believe in usury. At that time I thought that after the departure of Muhammadans from the State to Pakistan, Government had adopted their principles but I find that its actions are quite different from its claims. Why are two different principles observed in the matter of paying and receiving interest? Late chaudhri Chhotu Ram used to say about the Banias that they always weighed less and were dishonest in their dealings. In the case of our Government, I notice that when it has to pay interest to the people, it either does not pay or pays at the rate of four per cent while it realizes six per cent from them. Why should two different standards be applied in these cases?

इस दे लेन दे बट्टे होर, देन दे होर
यिम्न दे लैख दे बट्टे होर देख दे होर

When the Government has to refund securities it pays interest at the rate of four per cent only. It has about fifty lakhs of rupees on account of rent of Muslim evacuee property. Government which professes great sympathy for the refugees is not prepared to reduce the rate of interest chargeable for late payment of fees under this Bill. Relying on the promises held out by it, some refugees bought houses in these townships. Government now tells them that it was not prepared to charge less than six per cent of interest on the amounts due to it.

Sardār Swaran Singh : It has excelled the hon. Member in this respect.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is my unpleasant duty to warn hon. Members not to address one another.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the rate of interest charged by the Government of India on the loans advanced by it to our Government? Is it not a fact that while it charge only two and a half or three per cent, our Government wishes to charge six per cent from the poor refugees. If the Government is going to treat the refugees in this manner, it cannot claim to be representative of the people, working for their benefit.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

I would request the hon. Minister concerned to accept this amendment in order to help the refugees for whom he claims to have so much sympathy. I hope he would not insist on this point too much and would agree to charge 3 per cent interest from the refugees instead of six per cent. If, however, he assures us that this increase of three per cent would be returned to the refugees in some form, it can be considered. Government should charge as much interest from the refugees as it is paying to the Government of India. If at all the Government wants to do this sort of banking, it can find other customers. But it should spare the refugees. Without saying anything more, I would request the hon. Minister to accept this amendment now, if he overlooked this point before.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (4), line 2, for the figure "6" the figure "3" be substituted.

The Assembly divided Ayes 4, Noes 56.

AYES

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| 1. Bachan Singh, Sardar. | 3. Sajjan Singh, Sardar. |
| 2. Ranbir Singh, Mehta. | 4. Suraj Mal, Chaudhri. |

NOES

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|---|---|
| 1. Ajit Singh, Sardar. | 17. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The Honourable Sardar. |
| 2. Amar Nath Shri, Vidyalankar. | 18. Gurbachan Singh, Sardar. |
| 3. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri. | 19. Gurbanta Singh, Master. |
| 4. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri. | 20. Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri. |
| 5. Beli Ram, Thakur. | 21. Isher Singh Mujhail, Sardar. |
| 6. Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri. | 22. Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri. |
| 7. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit. | 23. Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar. |
| 8. Bhagwan Dass, Shri. | 24. Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar. |
| 9. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri. | 25. Kabul Singh, Sardar. |
| 10. Buja Ram, Bhagat. | 26. Kartar Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 11. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar. | 27. Kartar Singh, Sardar. |
| 12. Dalip Singh, Thakur. | 28. Kehr Singh, Sardar. |
| 13. Dev Raj Sethi, Shri. | 29. Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri. |
| 14. Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit. | 30. Lahri Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 15. Faqir Chand, Pandit. | 31. Lehna Singh Sethi, The Honourable Dr. |
| 16. Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr. | 32. Matu Ram, Chaudhri. |

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| 33. Mehr Chand, Chaudhri. | 44. Sahib Ram, Chaudhri. |
| 34. Mohar Singh, Rao. | 45. Samar Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 35. Narinder Singh, Sant. | 46. Sant Ram Seth, Dr. |
| 36. Narotam Singh, The hon. Sardar. | 47. Sher Singh Chaudhri. |
| 37. Pancham Chand, Thakur. | 48. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar. |
| 38. Partap Singh, Sardar. | 49. Shiv Singh, Sardar. |
| 39. Prem Singh, Chaudhri. | 50. Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit. |
| 40. Prem Singh, Mahant. | 51. Sita Devi, Shrimati |
| 41. Prithvi Singh Azad, The hon. Shri. | 52. Swaran Singh, Sardar. |
| 42. Ranjit Singh, Captain. | 53. Sudarshan, Seth. |
| 43. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri. | 54. Sundar Singh, Chaudhri. |
| | 55. Virendra, Shri. |
| | 56. Waryam Singh, Sardar. |

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I move—

That in sub-clause 4, line 2, after the words 'interest at' the words 'a rate not exceeding' be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Shri Virendra : I move—

That in sub-clause (1); line 3, for the words "within a fortnight of the receipt of demand when it relates to the past period" the following be substituted :

"Three months of the receipt of demand and in not more than three instalment."

Sir, I have already brought it to the notice of the Government that the realizing of arrears from the refugees is a great burden on them. But even if the Government is bent upon realizing the arrears for the last year and a half, years in my opinion it should not do so within such a short period. It is not possible for the refugees to pay the arrears within fifteen days of the receipt of demand. So I move this amendment that instead of a fortnight the time limit should be at least three months and the amounts should be deposited in three instalments.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (1) line 3, for the words 'within.....period' the following be substituted.

"Three months of the receipt of demand and in not more than three instalments."

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepure, General, Rural) (*Hindi*)

Sir, I move—

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

That in the amendment of Shri Virendra for the words 'three months.
the words 'one year' be substituted.

Sir, I feel that the period should be at least one year instead of three months. The refugees are unable to bear this burden. The intention of the Government to realize the arrears will prove to be a real hardship to them. We know the manner by which the sale was carried on after spending lakhs of rupees. Some of the houses are, even now, lying unsold. This policy of the Government will put a great hindrance in the way of their disposal. We should think of the amount that has been spent on them. Many of them are still vacant. We have been told that grassy lawns are made in front of them. I wonder what the Government of this State is doing. Why is it wasting money on unnecessary things?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** That is irrelevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, what I wish to say is that the Government should do everything after careful consideration and planning. In this case the time that is intended to be given for the realization of arrears is too short. It should not be less than one year in any case. That is the purpose of my amendment. If my amendment is not accepted the refugees will be put to a lot of trouble and hardship and the Government will also feel like bringing in another such amendment after four or five months. So the best thing is to realize the difficulty of those who will have to pay the arrears and to try to remove their hardship at this stage. I am, therefore, of the view that it is most desirable that the time limit for depositing the dues should be enhanced from three months to one year, as has been suggested in the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Shri Virendra. Three months' time is a very small period. I feel that fixing of this period tantamount's to throwing dust into the eyes of the public. I may point out that when it comes to realization of the dues, Government will find that three months, time is not an adequate period. Then it will feel the necessity of bringing forward another amending Bill. I want them to avoid that eventuality. I would request them to hold consultations among themselves and substitute one year for the period 3 months.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved—

That in the amendment of Shri Virendra for the word, 'three months'
the words 'one year' be substituted.

The motion was lost.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I find that the amendment moved by Shri Virendra

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requires redrafting. It is not properly worded and I would suggest that its consideration be postponed till it is redrafted.

Consideration was accordingly postponed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural.) Sir,
I move —

That in lines 3-4, the words, "and costs, if any, incurred", be omitted.

Sir, this is an innocuous amendment and I don't think any argument is required to further elucidate it. If the hon. Minister concerned gives careful consideration to my amendment, he will see no objection to its acceptance. Now section 6 reads thus :—

'In case of default all arrears of the fee payable to the State Government under the Act including interest chargeable thereon and costs, if any, incurred may be realized as arrears of land revenue.'

Now if you just make a perusal of it, you will find that it includes the payment of arrears as well as the interest chargeable on it. So far, everything is understandable, but when we come to the words 'costs if any,' it surpasses one's comprehension as to what the words construe. It is not clear what sort of costs the framers of this Bill have in their mind. They are not specified in definite terms. I am of the view that such ambiguous words are used in the Bill at such places where Government do not want to do things in a straight manner. I say, if their heart bleeds for the refugees then why don't they act in a manner by which their sympathies for the refugees are not doubted? In this connection I am reminded of an anecdote about a Bania who fell seriously ill and recovered after a great deal of money had been spent on his treatment. When his friends came to congratulate him on his recovery, he said there was no occasion for felicitations as he had yet to die. (*Laughter*). I am of the opinion that the present Government is even worse than that Bania. This, too, has yet to die; then alone people would have a sigh of relief. This Government is putting the poor people to greater hardships than the accursed Bania, who, if he is rapacious, does things openly. But here what do we find? The Government does not specify what these 'costs, if any' would be. Do they want to drive out the refugees from their houses or do they want to take possession of their houses under the pretext that the latter were not able to pay their dues? I smell a rat in the ambiguity used in these words. Perhaps Government intends to include in these costs, lakhs of rupees which the contractors would like to put in their pocket, or the travelling allowance which the officers would draw.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member need not stretch the meaning. The hon. Minister would state what those costs are.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Well, Sir, what I want to drive at is that since the words 'costs if any' have not been clarified, they should be omitted, so that the refugees may be saved of any extra burden which the Government might like to put on them.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in lines 3-4, the words, "and costs, if any, incurred", be omitted.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) (*Hindustani*): I am really surprised that my hon. Friend Shri Ranbir Singh who is practising law.....

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** No reflection please.

Minister For Rehabilitation : Through you, Sir, I would like to explain the meaning of the word "cost" for the information of my hon. Friend who has failed to understand its meaning. "Cost" means court expenses. If the arrears are to be realized through the court, the cost thus incurred and if granted by the court shall have to be paid by the defaulter.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That in lines 3-4, the words, "and costs, if any, incurred" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General. Rural) (*Hindustani*): I move——

That sub-clause (?) be deleted.

Sir, in my opinion this is the most repugnant clause in the whole of this Bill. If there is anything most repugnant in the whole of the 1 P.M. Bill, it is this exemption clause. It really ill—behoves the Government to make such a provision in the Bill, now before the House. It is an open secret that legislative measures which are placed on the Statute Book are always meant for the greatest good of the greatest number.

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As a matter of fact wise men do not frame such laws as are detrimental to the interests of the general public.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is a reflection on the House as a whole.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Very well, Sir. I will say this that the hon. Members of this august House are very wise. What I wish to point out is that the main function of the House is to frame laws and place them on the Statute Book. In fact it has to be more cautious and careful while dealing with legislation. It goes without saying that the hon. Members of this House may or may not interfere with the day-to-day administration of the State but it is obligatory on them to probe into the minutest details of all the legislative measures. The greatest achievement of a legislative Assembly can safely be determined by the type of laws it places on the Statute Book and the way in which it does so. It is said blind law is the best law and blind law does not mean a law framed by blind or ignorant persons but such law as is not liable to different interpretations and does not discriminate between persons. Sir, through You, I would like to appeal to the Government on behalf of all the hon. Members that it is but meet and proper on their part to first realize their responsibilities and then frame such laws which may not be subjected to any criticism by the people outside and that the provisions of any Bill when passed into law may not be misused by the officials concerned.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** General lectures should be stopped.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, what I want to drive at is that laws should be framed in such a way that there may not be any likelihood of their misuse by the officials. If this is not done, I am sure all the legislative measures would be subjected to vehement criticism both inside and outside the House. In this connection I am reminded of the story of an Arab and a camel.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I do not want any story. Leave it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I am not repeating anything. This is only an argument.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I do not want arguments by stories.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, arguments are being advanced in this House by way of similes. However I will not relate the story of an Arab and the camel as hon. Members must be aware of it. So far as the exemption clause is concerned, it is the intention of the Government

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

to exempt any purchaser from the payment of the fee or the interest accrued or due as the case may be I am of the opinion that by providing the exemption clause Government would be out to give such concessions to their own favourites and relations. If this state of affairs continues, I am sure, time will not be far when the present Government will have to make room for others who can be of some real service to the general public.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that the hon. Member is persistent in irrelevancy.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I have moved an amendment for the deletion of Sub-Clause (2) of Clause 7. It has been said that this provision would be used by the Government very seldom. But I am of the opinion that the object for which this Bill is going to be placed on the Statute Book will not be achieved by making such unnecessary provisions in it. I really fail to understand as to why such Bills are brought in this House which are not instrumental in doing any good to the people-

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Since the hon. Member is persistently indulging in irrelevancy, I ask him to discontinue his speech.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That sub clause (2) be deleted.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr Speaker said, "I think the Noes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is ——

That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That clause 8 stand part of the Bill,

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I move---

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That in line 3, for the word 'lighting', the words "water supply" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I move—

That in line 5 between the word "connection" and the word 'pipes' the word "and" be inserted, and the word 'etc.' be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That in lines 6-7, the words "together with the necessary departmental charges" be omitted.

Sir I do not propose to make a long speech in this connection. The Government has provided a big sum in the Budget for this department and the department had held out an assurance that it would make arrangement for the supply of water and street lighting. I would, however, not offer any objection if the cost of the service connections, pipes etc. is charged from the refugees, but I do not think that Government is justified to recover departmental charges. (*Here the honourable Member addressel the Speaker as "Bhai Jan"*)

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, he should be asked to withdraw the word "Bhai Jan" which he has used while addressing you.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** His colleague calls me "Gurmukh" and he calls me "Bhai Jan" (*Laughter*).

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I have been addressing the Chair most respectfully and saying that these departmental charges should not be recovered from the refugees. When officers are vested with powers to recover the amount, they will adopt coercive methods for realizing such charges. It appears as if the Government wants to recover the whole cost of administration of the department from the refugees. If this is so, then I fail to understand the need for constituting the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. Before recovering such charges, the Government should have considered seriously whether refugees are in a position to pay those charges. This shows that the sword of Democles would ever remain hanging on their heads with a slender thread. Such a provision in the Bill will leave scope for officers to harass the refugees for the realization of the departmental charges. These charges should be specified and must not be left to the department to decide. Such a clause is, therefore, open to serious objection. The Government is conferring powers on officers which are likely to be misused by them. The Government should anyhow, make it clear that these charges will not exceed two rupees. I would say that a legislative measure like a sharp-edged weapon, if not

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handled properly, is likely to cause injury. There is a serious lacuna in this clause as it does not specify the amount of departmental charges. I would ask the hon. Minister in charge if the Government wants to recover the salaries of the Chief Engineer and other staff from the helpless refugees. He should make it clear so that we may inform the public that they should think seriously before purchasing any plot or house. It is known to everyone how the powers conferred under any Act are often misused by the person representing the authority of law. The clause in question is ambiguous and I would, therefore, suggest that it should not form part of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in lines 6-7 the words "together with the necessary departmental charges" be omitted.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am constrained to remark that some of my hon. Friends became 'Yamla' i. e. pretend not to know many things when they make speeches in the House.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Sir, the hon. Member should withdraw this remark.

Minister for Rehabilitation : I withdraw this remark. I am sorry to say that some of my hon. Friends think and also try to create impression in the minds of refugees to show that the salaries of the Chief Engineer and other departmental expenses are intended to be recovered from the refugee house-owners. They should know that the "departmental charges" are fixed. I fail to appreciate the argument of my hon. Friend that the payment of fee at the rate of Rs. 3/8/- for street lighting and Rs. 6/8/- for water supply per month per house will cover the salary of Rs. 3,700 per mensem of the Chief Engineer. I may inform the House that the departmental charges will be recovered according to certain fixed percentage. Perhaps my hon. Friend may go to the length of saying that all the travelling allowance which will have to be paid to M. L. As is to be recovered from every single houseowner. I may assure him that it will never be so. Such charges will be very nominal and are levied everywhere.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That in lines 6-7, the words "together with the necessary departmental charges" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is——

That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

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CLAUSE 10

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 10 stand part of the Bill,

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Shri Virendra : I move—

That in sub clause (1) lines 3 and 4, for the words "within a fortnight of the receipt of demand when it relates to the past period", the following be substituted:—

"if it relates to any period before the coming into force of this Act, within three months of the notice of demand and in not more than three instalments",

The motion was carried.

Sardar Swaran Singh : To my mind, Sir, the amendment that has just been adopted will not read properly as there must be some specification of the instalments. If the word 'instalments' is not specified, it will be very vague. It must be clearly laid down whether the instalment is to be monthly, fortnightly, or for any other period specifically mentioned.

Chief Minister : The purchaser has to pay the amount within three months. He may pay in one instalment, in two instalments or in three instalments as he chooses. After paying one instalment, he can pay the second after a month or after a fortnight as it suits him.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-Clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That subclause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : I

move—

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water Supply) Fees Bill as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water Supply) Fees Bill be passed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have risen to oppose this Bill because I feel that the powers that the Government proposes to assume through it are uncalled for. The passing of this measure will tantamount to subjecting the refugees to a great hardship. Already the Government has made a good deal of profit out of land on which the houses in question have been constructed. The Government has managed to realize Rs. 1500 to 2,500 per 'kanal', for land, the price of which, keeping in view the local price prevailing in the locality concerned, can in no case be more than Rs 700 to 800 per 'kanal'. It is chiefly for this reason that the Government is not entitled to charge the expenses incurred in connection with providing street-lighting and water supply in the form of a fee from the refugees who have purchased houses in refugee townships. The Government has already realized three to four times the original cost of land from them and has thus made a lot of profit and so, for the purposes in question, it is proper that the Government should spend from its own coffers.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Three hon. Members have already said this. The arguments that have already been advanced by other hon. Members should not be repeated.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : All right, Sir. The hon. Minister has assured that not a single pie in excess of the actual cost will be realized from the refugees but I am afraid nobody can trust this Government to keep its word. Keeping in view its past conduct, it is indeed difficult to trust it in any matter in future. How can the Government, which did not hesitate to make a profit of Rs. 17 lakhs by sale of seeds, be trusted any more ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Speaker not yet convinced that dilatory tactics are being employed to hamper the work of legislation ? I want to know whether the Speaker cannot do anything to prevent this state of affairs. Is he absolutely helpless in the matter ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I am aware of that, but in spite of that I stick to the rules and allow the hon. Members to move amendments and speak on other motions. Although, very important changes have been effected in the Bill under discussion, yet I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that one whole day has been taken up in seeing through one Bill. The hon. Members, I am sure, do realize what one whole day means.

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Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is there no limit to the number of times that the Speaker is bound to tell a Member that he is indulging in repetition ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** When any Member indulges in irrelevancy, I warn him once, twice, thrice and if he still persists in irrelevancy, it is only then that I apply the rule and ask him to discontinue his speech.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, what I want to tell the House through you, is that if we pass the Bill, the condition of the persons affected will be the same as is referred to in the Punjabi saying

ਚਾਲ ਅਲੂਣੀ ਤੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਸਲੂਣੀ
ਚਾਲ ਆਲੂਣੀ ਤੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਸਲੂਣੀ।

What I mean to say is how will the people who cannot afford to procure clothing for themselves, be able to pay these fees for street-lighting and water-supply.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the Punjab New Townships (Street Lighting and Water Supply) Fees Bill as amended be passed.

The motion was carried.

ABOLITION OF VILLAGE CESS (KURI KAMINI) BILL.

Minister for Education (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : Sir, I introduce the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill.

Minister for Education : I move—

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up to support the Kuri Kamini Bill. This Kuri Kamini cess is at present payable by about fifty lakhs of people who live in villages and are non-agriculturists. They are called “ghavi kaumi”. These “ghavi kaumis” are usually Harijans, carpenters, blacksmiths or shoe makers who have the misfortune of living in the rural areas. They are required to pay in many places of this State house rent varying between Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 per annum. I do not find any sense in subjecting these people to a rent or a cess. These people have lived in the houses for which they are asked to pay rent for thousands of years but they are not treated as owners. Such a thing is unprecedented in the whole world. Ordinarily

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if a person has exercised adverse possession over a place for over twelve years, he becomes its owner. A Municipality or a District Board cannot eject a person from a place belonging to it if he has been in its possession for over thirty years. The time limit in case of Government property is sixty years. But believe it or not the 'kamins' of the villages or the "ghavi kaumis" are not entitled to ownership even if they have lived in their houses for generations. This house rent is not the only form of Kuri Kamini. Another form is what they call "Punchh." In Hindustani 'punchh' also means the tail of an animal but that is not the meaning here. This is a cess which is charged from the 'ghavi kaumis' who are the original inhabitants of India for the grazing of their cattle in Shamlat lands. This is not all. They are required to make huts for the zamindars, repair their houses, till their lands and render begar in so many shapes and forms that it is not possible for me to describe them. If unfortunately a zamindar dies it is a "ghavi kaumi" who must carry the message to his friends.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member is irrelevant. He should confine himself to the Bill.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I can assure the hon. Speaker that we all wish to pass this Bill. With the exception probably of three hon. Members, nobody will oppose it. I was saying that if a zamindar dies, ghavi kaumi has to carry the message of his death to his friends even if he had twenty relatives around him at the time of his death.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is no use speaking about these things at the present time.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Very well, Sir. If you do not permit, I shall leave these things to themselves. But I think that there will be no charge of irrelevancy against me if I discuss as to what would be the effects of this measure. I wish that the abolition of the Kuri Kamini should not meet the fate of the social Disabilities Removal Act. Perhaps the hon. Members of this House are not aware that now when the Harijans manage to get water from the wells with the aid of the Government officers, the zamindars boycott them and do not allow them to enter their fields. This has entailed a very great hardship for them. I know that when a Harijan refuses to sell a shoe for four rupees instead of five rupees to the zamindars the zamindars are always successful in imposing exorbitant taxes on them in the form of 'Chaukidara' etc. So in these circumstances I desire that this Bill when passed should not adversely affect the interests of the poor kamins and be a cause for disputes and litigation.

I wish to point out that unless action is taken on the four questions I am going to refer to, this Bill when enacted will have several evil effects. Unless this is done, it will do no good even if the Government gives it the widest publicity. I know that the hon. Members are getting impatient.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should be relevant.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I wish to draw the attention of the Government to these problems. In reply to the discussion on the Budget, the Chief Minister stated on the 14th March that the Government would declare the Members of scheduled castes as agriculturists.

✓ **Mr. Speaker ;** That has been done. Kindly leave that matter aside.

Master Gurbanta Singh : When this Bill is passed and we cease to pay the kuri kamini cess, we shall be boycotted and compelled to leave the villages. I shall request the Government to take steps to make us the owners of the land on which our houses stand.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This is not the point under discussion. I realise that everything directly or indirectly can be made relevant but the words in the Rule are, 'Members must be strictly relevant.'

Master Gurbanta Singh : I was submitting, Sir, that till the Government takes action in some other matters also, this Bill will do no good to the scheduled castes.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** If it will do no good, it can be thrown out.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Under the new Constitution, the Government of India has to appoint a special officer for looking after the welfare of the backward classes. When the Government has decided to abolish the Kuri Kamini cess, it should also take steps for the appointment of such an officer in this State. If this is not done we will be boycotted and our position will become very difficult.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : If the hon. Member thinks that the Bill will create difficulties, will he like it to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon ?

Master Gurbanta Singh : I was submitting that a special officer must be appointed at an early date.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This speech will have the reverse effect. It would be better to stick to the matter under discussion.

Master Gurbanta Singh : I know that in spite of what I might say, it will have the reverse effect. A Bill for the removal of disabilities of Harijans has already been passed but it has not yielded any useful result. A case is going on in Simla in connection with it, but no decision has been made so far. It is my duty to refer to questions connected with this Bill. One of the results of passing this Bill would be that it would become difficult for us to live in the villages. We shall become jobless and as we are poor people, it will not be possible for us to move

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to the cities and settle there. In this connection, I wish to cite the case of a potter who had been living in a certain village for over two years.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** What has it got to do with the Kuri Kamini cess ?

Master Gurbanta Singh : It is connected with the Kuri Kamini in this manner. An hon. Member of this House did not permit that potter to construct a roof over his house. The wife of that potter gave birth to two children in that uncovered house.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I have been following with interest the arguments of my hon. Friend and think that he is quite relevant. The idea of the Bill is to promote harmony and cordiality and the hon. Member has all along been dealing with the point that the object of the Bill will not be achieved in fact.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It is not the object of the Bill which is under discussion ; it is the contents of the Bill that should be discussed. The principle of the Bill is to be discussed at this stage and not the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill.

Mehta Randir Singh : Principle of the Bill is also given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. If at this time general principle of the Bill is to be discussed, then the hon. Member can discuss what is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Only the principle of the Bill should be discussed. I am not concerned with anything else.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural, Reserved seat) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, this cess called Kuri Kamini is being realised from the Harijans from times immemorial. Now that it is going to be abolished, we are grateful to the Government and I congratulate it on bringing this Bill before the House. I specially congratulate my hon. Friend Shri Prithvi Singh Azad

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** You can do that outside the House.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : The hon. Minister came in conflict with the Unionist Government on several occasions on this issue. But it is only now in the regime of our own Government that this undesirable cess is being abolished. Through you, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members of this House as also the Government for supporting this Bill.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, most of my hon. Friends might be under the impression that I have stood up to oppose the Bill. But actually this is not the case. I have stood up

to support the Bill and to assure my Scheduled caste brethren that the Zamindars who are proprietors of villages, are in no way against the interests of the Scheduled castes. The fears of the latter that the Zamindars will put them to trouble, if this Bill is passed, are without basis. But this Bill, I would like to point out, can become effective only if the support of the Zamindars is enlisted in its favour. It was with this purpose that we went from place to place and exhorted people to accord fair treatment to our Scheduled Caste brethren. and we passed a resolution in a meeting of the provincial Zamindars in support of the abolition of Kuri Kamini. The people from whom the Scheduled castes could have any fears on this score are already prepared to help them. Doubtless the village proprietors met the common expenses such as the entertainment of Government officials, from this cess. But now the Zamindars are prepared to take that burden upon themselves alone if our poorer brethren are not in a position to contribute. This cess up till now is used on matters of common interest of the whole of the village. But now the proprietors alone will have to bear that burden. It is possible that this cess might not have been properly used in some villages or that some Zamindars or Lambardars might have misused it. But on the whole, it is used for common purposes. Anyway if rural brethren of ours think it below their dignity to pay this cess, we are prepared to help them out of this inferiority complex. We want that there should be no consideration of the high and the low in the minds of the rural people. This Bill will also benefit non-proprietors other than Scheduled Castes who live in villages. What we desire is unity, harmony and fraternity among all people who live in villages and there should be no discord and disaffection. I know some people have tried to create bad blood among us in the name of this cess of Kuri Kamini. They tried to instigate our Harijan brethren against the Zamindars. These tactics cannot be liked by any honest person who has the good of the country at heart. All honest people think that we should accord fair treatment to our Harijan brethren. All the same I would like to say this much that our Harijan brethren should not be misled by the propaganda of persons who want to exploit them. They should try to know where their interest lies. Some people try to create bad blood between the Harijans and the Zamindars. It is but right that the Harijans should distinguish between their friends and foes.

Chaudhri Matu Ram : The hon. Member should, therefore, let the Bill be passed

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : So far as I am concerned, I do not grudge if Harijans are made even kings. But if this Bill is rushed through and we are not allowed to express our views, its purpose will not be served. In that case it may do more harm than good to our Harijan brethren. The people should

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

be persuaded to take the Bill in the spirit in which it is being passed. Some hon. Members have congratulated the Government and the hon. Labour Minister on the introduction of this Bill. But in fact, congratulations are due to those rural people who are actually concerned in the matter. In the end, I strongly support this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, 1st April 1950.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

1st April 1950

Vol. I—No. 20

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 1st April 1950.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

Note :—The question hour was dispensed with under the direction of Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move——

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

Sir, it was my desire that the Bill regarding the relationship between landlords and tenants should be prepared and brought before the House in the current session. We have already arrived at some understanding regarding this Bill and the final agreement is yet to be arrived at which I hope will be done within a day or two. We want to increase the term of tenancy of tenants so that they may have greater security and they may be able to work more whole heartedly than now. But full agreement has not yet been reached on the provisions of this Bill. I, however, hope that we will arrive at final decision in a day or two. When it is ready we will advise the Governor to call another session for the purpose of passing this Bill as also number of other Bills.

Some of the hon. Members have expressed the desire that more time should be devoted to the legislative business so that it may be fully discussed. That is why some of the Bills on the order paper will be referred to select committees. When their reports are received, they will be brought before the House along with other Bills in the next session which will be called for passing all these Bills. It is with this purpose that I have brought this motion before the House. I hope the House would accept it.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved——

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned *sine die*. ♦

Mr. Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General. Rural) (*Hindustani*) : I have stood up to oppose this motion. A number of Bills have already been brought before the House. It was with a view to disposing of these Bills that the hon. Chief Minister brought the motion for utilizing the two

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

days meant for non-official business, for Government business. We were given the impression that that step was being taken in view of the urgency of the Government business. Now this motion for adjourning the House *sine die*, has been brought before us when so many important Bills are yet to be disposed of. The hon. Chief Minister has said that he does not want to rush through the work of legislation keeping in view the desire of the House—so far so good. But if he could clarify this point a bit further, we would not oppose this motion. We are being accused by the Government as also the press for obstructing the work of the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It would be better if the hon. Member does not refer to the press reports. I shall see to that myself.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I want to submit, Sir, that we have not put any obstacle in the way of passage of any useful legislative measure. The fact is that the Government itself is not prepared to do so. It would have been better if the hon. Chief Minister had brought up important Bills like the Tenancy Bill providing for non-ejection of law abiding tenants etc., during the current session. If the Tenancy Bill had been passed, the dangers that face our State today would have been avoided. We are helpless in this matter. And if the hon. Chief Minister is also helpless, I sympathise with him. This problem brooks no further delay. Efforts should be made to find a satisfactory solution as early as possible. Besides this we should give top priority to another Bill, namely Anti-Black marketing Bill. If this Bill is taken up first of all, I assure the Government of our full support. In the presence of this assurance, the allegation that we obstruct the business, would appear baseless. I, therefore, submit that this Bill be given top priority and it should be passed during this Session. The Bills which are essential for the good of the State and which require immediate attention, should be passed. Others should not be rushed through and should be left over for fuller consideration. I, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to consider dispassionately as to what Bills would improve the lot of the people of the State. Anti-Black Marketing Bill is one of such Bills.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It is on the agenda.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It is on the agenda; but it is at number 21 Sir, in my opinion this Bill should come not only on the agenda but on the Statute Book. Black marketing, as everybody knows, is harmful to the State. That this Bill should be passed at once cannot be denied by anyone. This measure is of general use.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Don't discuss it at this stage.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If my view point is accepted I won't say even a word in this matter. My submission is that those Bills which are important must be brought up for consideration in this session. Unimpor-

ant ones may be left over for the next session. Our first consideration should be the interest of the State. Important Bills should be passed atonce and should not be deferred simply because we have no time. Time must be found for them and the hon. Chief Minister has not shown that any emergency has arisen so as to justify our dispersal so suddenly. With these words I oppose the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I oppose the motion which the hon. Chief Minister has brought before the House for adjourning it *sine die*. In this connection I wish to state that the business is being unnecessarily rushed through. On the one hand the Government stated on an earlier occasion that it wants to give as much time as possible for the consideration of the various Bills. On the other hand it has actually devoted not more than four days to legislation and at the expiry of this period it has begun to feel that such legislation is not important and can be put off for some other occasion. I have gone through the proceedings of various legislative bodies of foreign countries and have studied thoroughly their mode of working. I have found that in those parliaments Money Bills and Budgets are not given so much importance. They are minor items as compared with the legislative work. The very name of this House i.e. Legislative Assembly is a pointer to the importance that ought to be given to legislation proper. I am at a loss to understand the mentality of our Government when it devotes not more than four days to legislation after declaring with pride earlier that it wished to bring as many as twenty eight Bills on the Statute Book during this session. It would have been a matter of great pleasure to us if our worthy Chief Minister had brought forward some legislative measure dealing with the burning question of the State at the present time. He should have made efforts to solve the tenancy problem upon whose satisfactory solution depends the fate of lakhs of poor tenants who are at present in a state of suspense. It has been stated that there is a proposal for bringing forward a specific Bill in this connection but that the time is not yet ripe for it. In my humble opinion it would have been better if the problem had been solved here and now in this session because delay in this matter increases the sufferings of the poor tenants. Their peace of mind is lost and it can only be restored if their difficulties are settled once for all. So I would appeal to the Government in all earnestness to pay more attention towards this important problem so that its solution may be reached at an early date. As a matter of fact the declaration that our worthy Chief Minister has made recently should have been put into practice much earlier. He has assured us that his words would be implemented and we hope that the assurance would be fulfilled soon.

Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of this House is that of black marketing. It is an important problem which faces our

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

State at this time. It should be handled with care and firmness. In this matter there has been a lot of restlessness among the people because it has been constantly on the increase for the last few years. Now the public has heaved a sigh of relief when a Bill with the object of putting a stop to this evil is being brought before the House during this session. I would appeal to the hon. Chief Minister that this Bill must be considered and passed during this session. In my opinion the Government should have brought forward a motion to the effect that today the House would sit till the whole of the business on the agenda is disposed of. But on the other hand what do we find? The Government is bringing forth a motion to adjourn the House *sine die*. I would advise the Government to take courage and say that the House will not adjourn until the whole of the business on the agenda is completed to day. We may have to sit till twelve o'clock at night but we must complete our work. A few days back the Chief Minister appeared to be very anxious about doing as much work as possible. But what has happened now? Today the sitting of the Assembly is for four hours and yesterday also it was for four hours instead of four and a half hours as usual. So we have been working for half an hour less on each of these two days. Thus the amount of work done during these two days is less than what we do in the ordinary course. Even now if the Chief Minister accepts my suggestion and considers it useful he should withdraw the motion of adjourning the House *sine die* and in its place move that the House shall sit till twelve o'clock mid night. In this way we will be able to find out who are those Members who take a real interest in the proceedings of this House. We have been accused of trying to put obstacles in the way but I would like to say most humbly that I am one of those Members who have missed no sitting and have taken a keen interests in the business of the House. I wish to assure the hon. Chief Minister that I would sit till twelve mid night because I know that the interests of the State demand that the Bills on the agenda should be considered and passed today. We should not rush through it. So I oppose the motion which is before the House and feel that we should sit till the business, we have before us, is completed. The fact that we can spare only four days for legislative business does not have a good reflection upon this Honourable House. In this connection it will not be out of place here to draw the attention of the hon. Members to an article published in the Hindustan Times a few days back. In that article it is stated that the Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly do not appear to take much interest in legislative proceedings. The article goes on to state that at such and such time when such and such Members were speaking the attendance in the Chamber was very thin. Sir, it is my earnest desire that the dignity of the House should be kept. We should not give an occasion to others for making such remarks about us. So it is in the fitness of things to prolong the sitting today

till twelve o'clock mid night. With these words I draw the attention of the Government towards the soundness of my suggestion and I shall feel obliged if the hon. Chief Minister sees his way to accept it.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, yesterday when I was with the hon. Chief Minister, I gathered the impression that he intended to finish all the items on the agenda before making a motion for the adjournment of the House *sine die*. I was also given to understand that if the legislation on the agenda could not be completed by today and demanded an extension of the session, the hon. Chief Minister would have no objection in extending it. But when today I entered the Assembly Chamber, I was simply surprised to find the motion for the adjournment of the House *sine die* being discussed here. Mr. Speaker, my reaction to this action of the Government is that by this motion they are making this Assembly a laughing stock of the world. After all when they formulated the agenda, they must have known which Bills were of greater importance and required precedence over the others. If all these Bills entered in the list, are not of any important nature, then where was the necessity of putting forward a heavy and voluminous agenda to the House. Sir, if we compare the duration of the sessions held by this legislature with those of other legislatures, we find that our sessions are the shortest of all and yet the Government are pressing for the adjournment of the House *sine die* without completing the legislative business. Then Sir, I can very well understand the significance of the *sine die* motion being moved during the previous regimes, when the Opposition in the Legislature under the lead of my hon. Friend the Chief Minister used to be very strong and the Government of the day experienced great difficulty in getting the legislation through in a short time. Now we have no opposition worth the name. It is almost non-existent here. I, therefore, see no reason why the session should be brought to an abrupt end and that Government have no justification in riding rough shod over the rules and regulations framed for the transaction of the business of the House. If the Government took these measures so lightly, then it would have been much better if they had taken a decision on these Bills during the Cabinet meetings. I may submit that the object of holding sessions of the Assembly is to provide opportunities for the ventilation of the grievances of the people. In fact these sessions offer opportunities for educating the public on certain important matters. Besides, if the Government did not like the hon. Members to express their views on the Bills, they could have very well issued whips.

✓ **Mr. Speaker** : But I always give full latitude for discussion.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, Sir, you always do that. But may I ask why this undue haste has been made in bringing forward this *sine die* motion

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.]

for the adjournment of the House before completing all the items on the agenda? I cannot help mentioning this that the people outside say that it was already known to them that the session would be terminated on Saturday and we are told that this step has been taken not on any administrative grounds but on astrological considerations. Yesterday when I went to attend the party meeting at the residence of the hon. the Chief Minister, I found a police guard on duty at the guest house where an astrologer was putting up.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member should avoid that.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : This is not discussing him in his personal capacity. This concerns him in his capacity as Chief Minister.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** This relates to his personal affairs.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No Sir, it relates to the guard at his house and guard is provided by the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, is the hon. Member relevant to the motion under discussion?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, I am speaking to the motion and I am within my rights to refer to all those considerations which are relevant to the subject under discussion. Well, Sir, yesterday I found that an astrologer was staying in a portion of the residence of the Chief Minister, where police guard was on duty.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** It does not look nice to make reference to that.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : We must take notice of all such things as they amount to abuse of the authority of the Government.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Personal affairs again. I would request the hon. Member to avoid that. He is a veteran parliamentarian and knows that reference to personal affairs is not desirable.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I most respectfully submit that I have not the slightest desire to go into one's personal affairs. But when this House is being adjourned *sine die* then I feel it my duty to draw your attention to all the possible reasons which may have led the Government to take this extreme step. I want to convince you that if we have to maintain the dignity and self-respect of this House, then we have to see that extraneous considerations do not influence the Government in terminating the session. We must act fairly and squarely since the eyes of public are set on us. We have to build healthy traditions and set up wholesome examples for the posterity to follow. But what do we find here? Democracy is being throttled and strangled. Government are trying to drive coach and six through the rules and regulations framed for transacting the business of the

House. Besides, we are being told that the hon. Members are not evincing any interest in the legislative work and they do not want to prolong the session because they do not get any daily allowance.

Mr. Speaker : Who told you that ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : People at large say so. I realize that the cost of living at Simla is very high and I will have no objection if any daily allowance is granted to the hon. Members for attending the session at a hill station. As you are aware, Sir, in commercial houses also, when a manager tours some hill area, he is given hill allowance in addition to his ordinary D. A. to meet the high cost of living there. So on the same analogy if any hill allowance is given to the hon. Members, I will not grudge that. But under the present circumstances Government will not have to incur any additional expenditure for prolonging the session with a view to finishing the work on the agenda. At present the allowances of the hon. Members are fixed and the exchequer will have to spend not a single pie more than what is already being paid to the legislators for extending their stay by another few days. I may point out that if the payments to the legislators were to be made on daily allowance basis and the session were to last for three months in a year, then they will be in receipt of Rs. 1800/- but under the rules legislators are being paid at the rate of 3600 rupees per annum. So the hon. Members should have no objection if the Assembly continues in session for four months at a stretch. Then, Sir, such irregularities committed by the Government are coming to light, as we would like to discuss on the floor of the House, but the pity of it is that we are being deprived of the opportunity of discussing them here, due to the adjournment of the House abruptly. Then there are so many questions both long and short which are yet to be answered and they will remain in cold storage if the House is adjourned. Only very recently an incident has come to my notice wherein a Government official has been sacked without any notice. If the House had to sit for a few days more, such things could be discussed. I therefore, feel that the House should not be adjourned.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** But all these are petty personal affairs.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I was submitting why it is not proper on our part to adjourn the House '*sine die*'. There is a heavy agenda yet to be proceeded with. So many questions remain to be answered. More time is required to enable us to ventilate the grievances of the poor people of our State. Under the circumstances I would request the hon. Chief Minister to prolong the sittings of the Assembly instead of adjourning the House *sine die*. After all there is no official opposition in this House and we are all sitting here as members of the Government as a result of which the question of the setting up of any alternative Government does not arise.

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

It is therefore necessary that hon. Members should be given more time to ventilate the grievances of the people. I would request the hon. Members also to impress upon the hon. Chief Minister that the motion he has moved is not in keeping with their dignity. With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Chief Minister to withdraw his Motion.

Hon. Members : Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : It was my duty to move a motion under rules for the adjournment of the House to-day. After disposing of the business of the session, the House cannot be adjourned unless a motion is moved for the adjournment of the House *sine die*. Therefore it was necessary for me either to move a motion for the adjournment of the House *sine die* or for prolonging it non-stop. In the later case, too, the same motion for the adjournment of the House had to be moved when it had after all to be adjourned to some to day.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of Order, Sir.

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend who seems to be so much excited and annoyed has thought it fit to employ such language in the course of his speech which he should not have used. This attitude of my hon. Friend has made me think that I should also pay back in the same coin but I have no intention to do that. Sir, as a rule it has always been the practice that whenever the Government holds the session of the Assembly it has the discretionary powers to introduce such Bills in the House as it deems fit. At the same time it is also imperative to conclude discussion on such Bills which are placed before the House. I consulted my hon. Friends about this matter and from their talks I gathered that after disposing of important legislation we could adjourn the House to-day, and that the rest of the legislation could be postponed. Since it was the desire of my hon. Friends to adjourn the House, therefore, I thought it fit to move a motion for the adjournment of the House *sine die*. It has always been and is the duty of the Government to see as to when Bills should be placed before the house. My hon. Friend has thought it fit to say that a heavy agenda remains to be disposed of and that more time should have been given to the hon. Members for considering that. He also thought it fit to say that he had been approached by a person who had been removed from service without any rhyme or reason. On the other hand, I find that my hon. Friend who has accused me for not extending the session has not so far given notice of any non-official resolution

or Bill. In spite of all this, my hon. Friend says that motions of public importance had to be placed before the House. As a rule the majority party always places any matter before the House, which it deems fit in the interest of the State. In fact it is the majority party which approaches the Governor to convene the Session of the Assembly. To-day I find my hon. Friend accusing me for not allowing time to him to discuss the proposed legislation and to educate the people. But I am constrained to remark that instead of educating the people in the real sense of the word some hon. Members did carry propaganda work against me as was done by my hon. Friend after putting in his resignation from the office of Premier. (*Noise and interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It does not relate to the motion, now before the House.

Chief Minister : Sir, reference has been made about it. I am making this statement with full responsibility and I can prove it. (*Voices of No. No :*)

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Chief Minister should look to the dignity of the House as he is the Leader of the House.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I am glad that the hon. Member is feeling so. I am more keen to maintain the dignity and keep up the decorum of the House than any hon. Member.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am one of those who believe in maintaining the dignity of the House. I am also one of those who appeal to the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of the House. I have never tried to lower the dignity of the House. On the other hand some of my hon. Friends say such things which are not in keeping with the dignity of this august House. Sir, what I wish to submit is this that instead of educating the people in the real sense of the word both through the press and the platform, it does not behove my hon. Friends to carry on the propaganda against the very party of which they happen to be the Members.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I challenge the statement of the hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : Sir, I would like to submit that my hon. Friend has pointed out in the course of his speech that when he came to my house in connection with the party meeting he saw police guards standing outside my house and the guest house where my astrologer friend is staying. I wish to make it clear and there is no doubt about it that police guard is stationed outside my house.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : There is a double guard.

Chief Minister : I think it is necessary to keep police guard outside my house, I have two kothies and one of these is an annexe.....

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : But ours is a poor State.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I would request the hon. Chief Minister to avoid this.

Chief Minister : Sir, these arguments have been advanced and I think it is due that I should reply. I do not want these things to go on record uncontested.

So far as the stationing of police guards outside the house of the Chief Minister is concerned, I wish to make it clear that it was already there previously too and I think it is also necessary to continue it. In my opinion it is not only necessary to keep police guards outside the house of the Chief Minister but also outside the houses of all the hon. Ministers. Being the Minister-in-charge of law and order, I am duty bound to give protection to the officials and others concerned with the Government.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is that astrologer a Government official? Sir, may I ask a question from the hon. Chief Minister?

Chief Minister : I refuse to give way. The hon. Member has had his say and I don't want any interruptions while I am speaking.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I have a right to get up and put a question to the Chief Minister, he may or he may not reply, but he has no business to shout me down.

Chief Minister : Sir, I am addressing the House through you how can I shout at any one, moreover, I am incapable of shouting at any one,

The fact that a reference has been made to my personal affairs and a friend of mine who happens to be an astrologer and is staying with me, has pained me. I feel sorry that the hon. Member thought it fit to bring in matters on the floor of the House which have no connection with the matter under discussion. He says that I have decided to adjourn the House *sine die* on the advice of an astrologer. I.....

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Sir, is the hon. Chief Minister relevant?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member who preceded the Chief Minister brought in matters which were not relevant and now the Chief Minister has to reply to those points.

Chief Minister : I have to defend my position. It has been said that I have decided to terminate the session on astrological grounds. I very strongly refute this charge. I do not take any action in the administration

of my State on astrological and other considerations but my every action in this matter is based on administrative and political reasons. On the other hand I level the same charge against the gentleman who has preceded me that while he was the Premier he consulted and approached other astrologers as well as this astrologer friend to know what was going to happen.....

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Question.

Chief Minister : Not even that, When he was in jail he used to consult astrologers and show them his horoscope. The fact is known to every one that even his release was predicted by an astrologer. I am sorry that the hon. Member has thought it fit to criticize others without caring to look at his own actions. I again repeat that I always take actions on political grounds and not on the advice of astrologers and do not go to them for advice so that a certain thing might not happen (*cheers*).

Sir, it has been remarked that an astrologer is staying in my guest house which has pinched the hon. Member. He says that there should not be any police guard. I am sorry to repeat that the charge has been made by my hon. Friend who had himself while as a Premier attempted to approach a number of times this very astrologer and showed him his horoscope.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Please leave that aside.

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend who is a parliamentarian should not say so. I cannot understand why he said so. I have never said that Opposition had been causing obstruction in the passage of the Bills. I think it is the right of the hon. Members to give their opinion as they like and I always welcome any criticism that is levelled against the Government. You would have noticed, Sir, that I have never tried to waste the time of the House. I am unable to understand why my hon. Friend should have the impression that the Opposition is insisting on obstruction. I feel that it is the right of the Opposition to criticize the Government and I would never like the idea of stifling the Opposition. I wish that those legislative measures which are important ones may be passed during this session and the Government may withdraw those which are unimportant ones. I always welcome the idea of constructive criticism by the Opposition because I think a strong and effective Opposition makes the Government strong. I would congratulate my hon. Friends sitting on the Opposition benches for not allowing the Government to rush through the Bills. It has been pointed out that in other countries the parliaments sit throughout the year but I would say that it is not fair on the part of my hon. Friends to compare this Assembly with the parliaments of other countries. If at all a comparison is to be made it should be made with the Union Government. I have been exercising restraint and

[Chief Minister]

did not like to utter a word to avoid the possibility of any extraneous matter coming into discussion here. I would, therefore, only say that the charges that have been levelled against me are wrong and baseless and would request my hon. Friend that he should first do self-introspection before making any such charges.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I am prepared to have the actions of the hon. Chief Minister and of my own referred to an independent Tribunal.

Chief Minister : I rise on a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member giving personal explanation or making another speech ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, it has been remarked that I have been showing my horoscope to astrologers. In fact I have no horoscope of my own and I have never consulted any astrologer either Mr. Sharma or Shri Haveli Ram.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

The Assembly divided : Ayes, 54; Noes, 4

AYES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Ajit Singh, Sardar. | 17. Gurbanta Singh, Master. |
| 2. Amar Nath Shri, Vidyalkar. | 18. Ishar Singh Mujhail, Sardar. |
| 3. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri. | 19. Jagdish Chandar, Chaudhri. |
| 4. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri. | 20. Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar. |
| 5. Beli Ram Thakur. | 21. Jiwan Lal, Pandit. |
| 6. Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri. | 22. Kabul Singh, Sardar. |
| 7. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit. | 23. Kartar Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 8. Bhagwan Dass, Shri. | 24. Kartar Singh, Sardar. |
| 9. Buja Ram, Bhagat. | 25. Kehr Singh, Sardar. |
| 10. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar. | 26. Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri. |
| 11. Dev Raj Sethi, Shri. | 27. Lohri Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 12. Durga Chand Kaushish, Pandit. | 28. Lehna Singh Sethi, The Honourable Dr. |
| 13. Ganga Saran, Seth. | 29. Matu Ram, Chaudhri. |
| 14. Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr. | 30. Mehr Chand, Chaudhri. |
| 15. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, The Honourable Sardar. | 31. Mohar Singh, Rao. |
| 16. Gurbachan Singh, Sardar. | 32. Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar. |
| | 33. Pancham Chand, Thakur. |
| | 34. Partap Singh, Sardar. |

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| 35. Piara Singh, Sardar. | 45. Sher Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 36. Prem Singh, Chaudhri. | 46. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar. |
| 37. Prem Singh, Mahant. | 47. Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit. |
| 38. Prithvi Singh Azad, The Honourable Shri. | 48. Sita Devi, Shrimati. |
| 39. Ranjit Singh, Captain. | 49. Sundar Lal, Chaudhri. |
| 40. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri. | 50. Sundar Singh, Chaudhri. |
| 41. Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar. | 51. Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar. |
| 42. Sahib Ram, Chaudhri. | 52. Udham Singh, Sardar. |
| 43. Samar Singh, Chaudhri. | 53. Virendra Shri. |
| 44. Sant Ram Seth, Dr. | 54. Waryam Singh, Sardar. |

NOES

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bachan Singh, Sardar. | 3. Sajjan Singh, Sardar. |
| 2. Ranbir Singh, Mehta. | 4. Suraj Mal, Chaudhri. |

COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Seth Ganga Saran had given notice of a resolution which even though ballotted and had been placed on the Agenda could not be taken up on the day fixed for discussion as the House could not reach the resolution. The next two non-official days on which this resolution could be discussed were, by the permission of the House, availed of for transacting important Government business which included some of the very important Bills. As the resolution represented the unanimous sentiments not only of the House but also of the people of the State I had held out a promise to Seth Ganga Saran and the House that for the purpose of discussion of this resolution the Government would make available some time on some official day so that the House may have an opportunity to express its views on this important matter that concerns almost every citizen of the State. I regret that it was not possible to find any time for a full discussion of this important resolution. I wish, therefore, to place that resolution before the House and seek the advice of the hon. Members about this matter. The resolution reads :

This Assembly recommends that the sufferings of the displaced persons from Pakistan having already stretched over 2½ years in an atmosphere of remorseless stalemate and vain attempts to obtain a settlement of the Evacuee Property issue with the Pakistan Government it is high time that Government took adequate steps to ascertain the losses of such victims and assume responsibility for compensating them with a view to allaying their immediate sufferings and ultimate rehabilitation.

[Chief Minister]

I have no doubt that I am expressing the innermost feelings of the hon. Members of the House when I say that this is a resolution the subject matter of which concerns the people of the Punjab most vitally and it represents truly their desire and sentiments. Our people have had to come away from the West Punjab leaving behind property worth hundreds of crores. Naturally they are keen, and so is each one of us, that the Government of India should settle the question of assessing the huge losses which our people have suffered and prevail upon the Pakistan Government to obtain a settlement of the evacuee property issue without any further loss of time. Already sufficient time has been lost for what is right and just and it is unfortunate that the Pakistan Government has been trying to evade the settlement of this important issue. I hope I am voicing the feelings of the hon. Members of the House and the people of Punjab when I say that evasion of such an important matter should not be countenanced by the Government of India any more and they should ask the Pakistan Government to settle this question immediately and the Government of India should treat this matter at what is called top priority in connection with the Indo-Pakistan Agreements. But while we make that request to the Government of India to which we feel so much beholden for whatever they have done for us and for whatever they may yet do in helping the people of Punjab, I think the hon. Members would certainly like the Punjab Government to represent to the Centre that it must now assume full responsibility for compensating the losses of people with a view to allaying their immediate sufferings and helping their ultimate rehabilitation. This is equally important because without this kind of immediate help coming from the Government of India the people of the Punjab who have had to suffer such heavy losses running collectively into hundreds of crores may suffer even more beyond human conception and the very badly shattered economy of our State may never be rebuilt. Sir, I am making this statement, as I said, to express the views and sentiments of the hon. Members of this House and I have no doubt that the House will endorse this statement and will permit me to forward this to the Government of India as being a unanimous decision with the implications of a resolution adopted by the House for immediate action being taken thereon by them.

Sir, there is yet another matter that concerns most vitally our people and incidentally the rest of India. By this I mean the future of the large number of the growers, including the tillers of the land and small land-owners who in the West Punjab used to till their lands with their own hands. Such a large number of them have had to come away from the West Punjab leaving the smiling fields which used to yield gold because of the efforts made by them in making those lands rich in production. Our men most of whom are tenants turned deserts into rich productive lands in the colony

areas of Montgomery, Lyallpur, Sargodah, Sheikhupura etc. These brave men with the sweat of their brow used to produce so much food that the West Punjab was able to make food available not only to itself but to a large extent to the rest of India. These people have now been deprived of those lands. But I am glad to say that they continue to be as sturdy and laborious as ever before and they are keen to work for not only helping themselves but for helping the whole of India by producing more food. If these men are given lands, which unfortunately we in Punjab have not got, they will add to the food-wealth of our country. I hope, therefore, that I am voicing the sentiments of the hon. Members of the House once again when I say that we may request the Government of India to so order that these brave and hardy people may be given agricultural lands in other States wherever these may be available for the purpose of cultivation so that they may cultivate these lands and add to the wealth of the country and thus help in solving the food problem of India. I may be allowed to state that our people will by their labours turn the deserted and uncultivated land into smiling fields just as they did in the colony areas of the United Punjab. I hope, Sir, that the House will approve of my statement and would permit me to represent this matter also to the Government of India as being a unanimous recommendation of the House on behalf of the people of the Punjab who, as ever before, are the guardians of the gate of India in this border State.

Mr. Speaker : Is it the wish of the House that these unanimous decisions of the House may be conveyed to the Government of India ?

The House unanimously agreed.

ABOLITION OF VILLAGE CESS (KURI KAMINI) BILL.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

NEW CLAUSE.

Sardar Ajit Singh : (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) I beg leave to move the following new clause :—

Penalty for Contravention.

4. Whoever with intent to evade the provisions of this Act accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person for himself for for any other person the village cess hereby abolished shall be punishable with fine which may extend to three hundred rupees and in default of the payment of the fine to simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months.

Leave was granted.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I move—

That the following new clause be added at the end of the Bill.

Penalty of Contravention.

4. Whoever with intent to evade the provisions of this Act accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person for himself or for any other person the village cess hereby abolished shall be punishable with fine which may extend to three hundred rupees and in default of the payment of the fine to simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

SUB-CLAUSE (ii)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (ii) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 and 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 1.

SUB-CLAUSE (i)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That subclause (i) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Education : I move—

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central Sikh Rural) (*Hindustani*) :

Sir, the Bill that is going to be passed by this House is calculated to remove a long standing grievance of a very large number of people and as a matter of

fact such a Bill should have been passed long ago. When we have set up a sovereign democratic republic, no person, whosoever he may be, should be in a position to levy taxes on others. A system in which some people charge taxes from others smacks of slavery and it should not be tolerated any longer. I am glad that at any rate this Bill will remove one important sign of slavery from our State. But the Government will have to see that it is rigorously and properly enforced. It should be seen that it does not suffer the fate of the Social Disabilities Act. In this connection I wish to invite the attention of the House to the relevant part of the appeal addressed to the hon. Ministers and hon. Members of the Punjab Assembly by Shri Ram Parkash, President, District Harijan Sabha, Ambala, which shows as to how far the Harijans have been helped by the passing of the Social Disabilities Act. It reads as follows :

The Government passed the Punjab Religious and Social Disabilities Act in 1949 but it has failed to benefit the Harijans in any part of the State. In spite of the fact that countless applications have been submitted and the courts have been approached, we have not been able to get even financial assistance for wells which we used to get before. This shows that instead of getting the best of both the worlds we have had the worst of both the worlds i.e. we have been deprived of our past concessions and have received no benefit by the passing of the Social Disabilities Act. The Act has only remained on paper and has not been translated into action with the result that the Harijans have to face greater difficulties in getting water. In these circumstances, it is submitted that in order to maintain its prestige the Government should put the Act into force very rigorously.

Sir, this has been the fate of the Social Disabilities Act which was passed with great enthusiasm and which aimed at relieving the Harijans from all sorts of hardships. The Act is there on the Statute Book but our social world is proceeding as before. So far as the present Bill is concerned, I had fears that as it originally stood it might produce no useful results because there was no sanction behind clause 2. But I feel grateful to Sardar Ajit Singh who has been good enough to bring forth an amendment by virtue of which the desired results are likely to be achieved. The days when some people could suppress others and command them are gone and those who cannot change their old traditions should be properly dealt with. However I would request the hon. Minister in charge that he should kindly assure the hon. Members of this House and the general public through them that the Bill when passed will be acted on with all possible vigour.

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister for Revenue for having brought forward this Bill for the abolition of Kuri Kamini cess, which caused, great hardship to the Harijans. I was pleased to hear my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal when he said in this House yesterday that the Zamindars also approved of

[Chaudhri Sher Singh]

this measure. So far as congress minded Zamindars were concerned, Harijans used to be told at the time of elections that they would be freed from the burden of this tax. This cess was not being realized by the nationalist Zamindars. Some Unionists, however, used to realize it for the sake of punishing those who did not vote for them at the elections. Yesterday, I was pleased to hear even those gentlemen say that they agreed that this cess was unjust and should be abolished. I shall request my Zamindar friends, especially those who are Unionists to create such conditions as may enable the Harijans to live in harmony with others. This will promote the interests of the villagers as a whole. With these words, I support the Bill under discussion.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): I support this Bill, which in my opinion is the first measure which would do real good to the Harijans and would free them from the age-old slavery. It would have been more appropriate if they had been given proprietary rights in their houses. In my opinion it would have been better if a measure for that purpose too had been brought before this House. I support the present Bill because I feel that it will improve the condition of Harijans in Harijana, where the system of Kuri Kamini cess mostly existed. It does not exist in my constituency but I am glad that it has been abolished in those areas where it existed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, without taking much time of the House, I wish to give expression to my feeling of happiness on the abolition of Kuri Kamini cess which used to be charged from the Harijans in my district. Harijans expected the Government to take steps in this direction and when I return home I shall be in a position to tell people that the necessary measure had been passed by the Legislature. This cess, which was a relic of the past, when the country was under foreign rule, was not intended for the benefit of those from whom it was realized. Some Zamindars wished to take *begar* from the Harijans but when they were not satisfied with even this, they got levied this cess on them. The money thus realized was used for the entertainment of officers who visited the villages or for the personal use of the Lambardars. It was levied on the Harijans with a view to take revenge upon them. If they did or could not fulfil their illegitimate demands. To some extent, this practice exists upto now. The word 'Kuri' means house and 'Kamini' means people of the lower classes. It is thus clear that it used to be charged from the poor and lower class people only. I am sorry that this Bill was

not brought earlier. On the 12th January 1950. a conference of the Harijans of my district was held in Rohtak where they demanded the removal of this cess. We shall now be in a position to tell the Harijans that their expectation from the congress Government had been fulfilled. I wish to thank my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal also on his statement that the members of his class had begun to realize the necessity of relieving the Harijans of burden of this nature.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the Punjab Abolition of Village Cess (Kuri Kamini) Bill be passed.

The Motion was carried.

GAON PANCHAYAT BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Gaon Panchayat Bill.

Minister for Labour (Hindi): I move :—

(i) That the Punjab Gaon Panchayat Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of :—

1. Sardar Kartar Singh
2. Sardar Ajit Singh
3. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal
4. Sardar Kabul Singh
5. Chaudhri Badlu Ram
6. Chaudhri Sahib Ram
7. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh
8. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar
9. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur
10. Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Ferozepuri)
11. Thakur Beli Ram
12. Chaudhri Lahri Singh
13. Rao Mohar Singh
14. Chaudhri Matu Ram
15. Sant Narinder Singh
16. Chaudhri Suraj Mal
17. Sardar Bachan Singh
18. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma

(ii) That leave be granted for the select committee to consist of more than 15 members.

(iii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 6.

Sir, the Gaon Panchayat Bill, which I have introduced in the House is based on the principles of that old democracy in India, which was known

[Minister for Labour]

by the name of village republic. If there is any old system which still prevails in the villages, it is that of Panchayat Raj. The constitutionalists all over the world have admitted the importance of this system. One of the main defects in the modern system of Government is this that it tends to centralize power. Several years ago, Mahatma Gandhi realized that unless power was transferred to the Gaon Panchayats, the real form of democracy which he visualized in the form of Village Republic, could not be established. In this connection I wish to refer to his statement.

He said :

Independence must begin at the bottom. Every village will be a Republic or Panchayat having full powers, it follows therefore that every village is self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs even to the extent of defending itself against the whole world.

Sir, the object of this Bill is to give more powers to all classes of people in the administration of the country, so that they may feel that we have now got our own Government. A number of amendments are sought to be made in the original Act in order to train people in the business of democratic methods of Government and also to give them more powers in respect of beneficent departments. Some fundamental changes have taken place and the original Act needs amending to that extent. This Bill has been brought before the House keeping in view Article 40 of our new Constitution. We thought it necessary to pass this Bill after full consideration. This is an important Bill which, when passed into law, will establish village republics in the real sense of the word. That is why it is being referred to a select committee for full consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

(i) That the Punjab Gaon Panchayat Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

1. Sardar Kartar Singh.
2. Sardar Ajit Singh.
3. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal.
4. Sardar Kabul Singh.
5. Chaudhri Badlu Ram.
6. Chaudhri Sahib Ram.
7. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh.
8. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.
9. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.
10. Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Ferozepur.)
11. Thakur Beli Ram.
12. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
13. Rao Mohar Singh.
14. Chaudhri Matu Ram.
15. Sant Narinder Singh.

16. Chaudhri Suraj Mal.
 17. Sardar Bachan Singh.
 18. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.
- (ii) That leave be granted for the select committee to consist of more than 15 Members.
- (iii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 6.

The motion was carried.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL.

Minister for Development : (The hon- Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) beg to introduce the Punjab Co-operative Societies Bill.

Minister for Development : I move—

That the Punjab Co-operative Societies Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 1st July, 1950.

Sir, the original Co-operative Societies Act was passed in 1912. Since then it has been found that a number of shortcomings and defects have crept into the working of the Act and consequently the department has been experiencing difficulties. It is to remove those difficulties and to widen the scope of the Act that this Bill has been brought up. Under the original Act the Government had given some concessions to the co-operative societies which are now sought to be withdrawn. It is, however, necessary that the co-operators should be consulted. That is why this Bill is sought to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Co-operative Societies Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 1st July, 1950.

The motion was carried.

COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES BILL.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : I beg to introduce the Punjab cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Bill.

Minister for Development : I move—

- (i) That the Punjab Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of.—

1. Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal.
2. Sardar Gurbachan Singh.

[Minister for development]

3. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.
 4. Shri Behari Lal Chanana.
 5. Sardar Waryam Singh.
 6. Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.
 7. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.
 8. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib.
 9. Sardar Ujjal Singh
 10. Chaudhri Harbhaj Ram.
 11. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
 12. Chaudhri Suraj Mal.
 13. Mehta Ranbir Singh.
 14. Sardar Bachan Singh.
- (ii) That leave be granted for the select committee to consist of more than 15 members.
- (iii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

The motion was carried.

PRIMARY VACCINATION AND RE-VACCINATION BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Primary Vaccination and Re-vaccination Bill.

Minister For Labour : I move——

- (i) That the Punjab Primary Vaccination & Re-vaccination Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—
1. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.
 2. Dr. Sant Ram Seth.
 3. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
 4. Sardar Partap Singh.
 5. Thakur Beli Ram.
 6. Prof. Sher Singh.
 7. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha.
 8. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal.
 9. Sardar Sajjan Singh.
- (ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

- (i) That the Punjab Primary Vaccination and Re-vaccination Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of.—
1. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.
 2. Dr. Sant Ram Seth.
 3. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
 4. Sardar Partap Singh
 5. Thakur Beli Ram.
 6. Professor Sher Singh.
 7. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha.
 8. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal.
 9. Sardar Sajjan Singh.
- (ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) :

That the Punjab Primary Vaccination and Re-Vaccination Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion there on till September 30, 1959.

Sir, I don't wish to take much time of the House. But this being a matter of principle I consider it my duty to oppose the new thing which we find in this Bill. In my opinion the Government is not at all justified in this. If we look at the provisions of this Bill we will come to a conclusion that, as it stands, this Bill does not deserve to be passed by this House. We cannot give our assent to this measure; rather we dare not do so. The real problem is how to prevent small pox. In order to achieve this a child is vaccinated. Previously there used to be compulsory vaccination at the primary stage. Thus it will now be necessary to get vaccinated compulsorily at least twice below the age of thirteen years. We have very little time at our disposal for the consideration of this Bill. It is a matter of regret that once before also this important problem was taken up at a time when the Members were ready for going to their homes and were unable to devote enough time to this vital problem. As far as the question of vaccination is concerned there appears to be a difference of opinion among the doctors. There is a group of doctors which holds that vaccination does not grant an immunity from the disease. Only proper sanitation and such other measures tend to act as preventive steps in this direction. In other countries vaccination has not been considered to be of much value as a preventive measure. The doctors say that only sanitation and improvements in diet etc. grant immunity from the disease. According to them such steps produce a power of resistance in the body with the result that small pox becomes a rare occurrence in such countries. Vaccination appears to be of no real value. In this connection I wish to ask the Government of Punjab the number of such persons who were vaccinated and who still died of small pox. The number of such children who got themselves vaccinated but still they died, is sufficient to prove the inefficacy of vaccination in giving immunity from small pox. Moreover small pox is a disease which generally occurs to children of tender age. So the injections and vaccinations are the forms of treatments which are unbearable to them. The other system of medicine i.e. Homeopathy does not give medicine in the form of injections etc. But in Homeopathy medicine is administered in small doses by way of mouth. So it appears to be more suited to the needs of the children of tender age. The very idea of compulsory vaccination appears on the face of it to be repugnant. Mahatma Gandhi was opposed to it. If he were living at this time then in accordance with the provisions of this Bill he would have no option but to go to prison for refusing to submit to compulsory vaccination because he was

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt]

against it. I am definitely opposed to the idea of resorting to compulsory vaccination and to the provision of a sentence for those who do not wish to get their sons and daughters vaccinated. In this connection it will not be out of place to refer to the provisions of an English Act to the same effect.

In the English law regarding vaccination there is a conscientious objectors clause. Those who are opposed to the idea of compulsion in England can declare before a magistrate that they do not wish to get their children vaccinated. In that country the matter was thoroughly considered. A Royal commission was appointed to go into the question and thereafter the Parliament passed the Bill after due consideration why is it that a similar procedure is not being followed here ?

Mr. Speaker : A select Committee has been constituted and you have been taken on it.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Member is taken only to silence him. (laughter).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, I wish to submit that proper medical education should be imparted to the people in the State. It is regrettable that our Government is too much enamoured of the Allopathic forms of treatment and it wishes that this Bill should be passed soon. I wonder why no fair treatment is accorded to Homeopathy and Ayurvedic, why should the Government sell itself in the hands of one set of medical men. When people can get good medicines in homeopathy at low cost and when such medicines are as good as those of other systems, why should they not be encouraged to do so ? I am against compulsion. In my opinion this Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion on it. I have two main objections to this Bill. Firstly, we have not attempted to see the view point and to meet the desires of the conscientious objectors. Secondly, those persons who can show that the Homeopathic medicines administered in Homeopathic form are as good as the Allopathic medicines and are sometime less harmful should not be compelled to have vaccination alone. In the end I hope that in view of what I have said above this Bill will be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under Consideration, amendment moved —

That the Punjab Primary Vaccination and Re-vaccination Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon till September 30, 1950.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, as you know the hon. Member feels very strongly on this point and I have discussed the matter with him and have persuaded him to withdraw his motion. He is himself a member of the select committee and the select committee might elicit public opinion if it so desires. the recommendations of the select

committee will be influenced by the public opinion. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his motion for circulation.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

(i) That the Punjab Primary Vaccination and Re-Vaccination Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of :

1. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.
2. Dr. Sant Ram Seth.
3. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
4. Sardar Partap Singh.
5. Thakur Beli Ram.
6. Prof. Sher Singh.
7. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha.
8. Shrimati Shanno Devi Schgal.
9. Sardar Sajjan Singh.

(ii) That the quorum of the select committee shall be 5.

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, what about my motion? I have not withdrawn it. If a member is objecting to the principle of the Bill it is necessary that he should move for its circulation to elicit public opinion thereon. For that reason I moved my motion and I have not withdrawn it.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** I am sorry it is too late now. The original motion for referring the Bill to a select committee has been carried.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, It should be brought on record that I object to the principle of this Bill and for that reason I moved a motion for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes, that has come on record.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It should come on record that I did not withdraw my motion, so that when your grandson comes to this House he should know that I did not withdraw my motion. (*Laughter*).

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Yes, it will come on record.

RESTRAINT ON DOWRY BILL.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill.

Chief Minister (Hindi) : Sir, I move :—

(i) That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of :

1. Thakur Dalip Singh.
2. Pandit Durga Chand Kaulish.
3. Sardar Waryam Singh.

[Chief Minister]

4. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.
5. Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.
6. Sardar Sajjan Singh.
7. Shri Bhagwan Dass.
8. Shrimati Sita Devi.
9. Chaudhri Samar Singh
10. Prof. Sher Singh.
11. Shrimati Shanho Devi Sehgal.

(ii) That the quorm of the select committee shall be five.

Sir, before 1946 when we used to lead opposition in the previous Assemblies, we gave notices of several social Bills. But since they used to be non-official measures, more often than not they could not come before the House. Then we find that Bills of this nature are under consideration of other legislatures and some of them have brought such measures on the Statute Book. The object of this Bill is not to put any bar on the parents to give dowry to their daughters. There is no restriction on what they want to give but what is being provided is that the dowry should not be exhibited to the public. The result of making a show of the dowry is well known to the House. The poor members of a brotherhood are put to great trouble and forced to give the same amount of dowry in the marriage of their daughters which the affluent members can well afford to give. So very often this showing of dowry lends poorer section of the society into heavy debts which ultimately prove ruinous to them. So an endeavour has been made to fix maxima and minima limits in the Bill for purposes of certain payments to be made by the parents of the daughter in connection with the various ceremonies, as enumerated in the Bill, to the parents of the bridegroom. I again say that the Bill does not debar those people who can afford to give a rich dowry as they could give more than prescribed limit after the formal departure of the bride for her husband's house. Rich people will be required to conform to the provisions of the Bill but they would be at liberty to give anything on any occasion after the formal departure of the bride to her husband's house. So in short this Bill aims at bringing a change in the social customs which have been in vogue in this country regarding giving of dowry in the marriage of girls. I, therefore, propose that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

(ii) That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of :

1. Thakur Dalip Singh.
2. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish

3. Sardar Waryam Singh.
4. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma
5. Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.
6. Sardar Sajjan Singh.
7. Shri Bhagwan Dass.
8. Shrimati Sita Devi.
9. Chaudhri Samar Singh.
10. Prof. Sher Singh.
11. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal.

(ii) That the quorum shall be five.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*) :
Sir, I move :

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon till 1-9-50.

Sir, this is a social measure and people in this country hold divergent views on the subject. You will perhaps remember Sir, that some years ago the Central Assembly enacted Sharda Act. It has almost remained a dead letter. It has been honoured more in its breach than in its observance. As a matter of fact this social law has been violated to such an extent that it has lost its respect in the eyes of the people for whose benefit it was enacted. I have serious apprehensions about this Bill also. It will be no wonder if this Bill also after becoming law may remain confined to the four corners of the Statute Book, as there is very little likelihood of the people acting upon it. Then why I am so apprehensive about this, is due to the fact that so long as the parents play a prominent part in solemnization of marriages of their children, the evil of dowry cannot be eliminated. A radical change can only be brought about if the people of our country are educated and are advanced. In views like other countries where boys and girls choose their own life mates. In our country there is a wellknown adage that 'bridegroom wants a bride, the members of the marriage party, a sumptuous feast and the father of the boy a handsome dowry'. So I am of the opinion that so long as the parents remain prominently in the picture of marriage of a boy or a girl, the dowry system is bound to remain a predominant and a major factor of the marriage ceremony. Hence no useful purpose would be served by referring this measure to a select committee.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Since when this retrogression has set-in in the views of the hon. Member ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member is entirely mistaken in forming this impression about me. I may tell him that I have very redical views on the subject of marriage. I feel that the boys and girls should have full

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

liberty in entering into matrimonial alliances of their choice, and the parents should not interfere, in that. But this cannot happen so long as the parents have to find out husbands for their daughters. I, therefore, strongly feel that instead of referring this Bill to a select committee, it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. We must know the reactions of the public to this Bill; whether it finds favour with them in its present form, or some suggestions for further radical changes are received from them. Besides this if I had any connection with the administration, I would have been the first to suggest for taking it into consideration at once. I repeat that since this is a social measure, it would be desirable to acquaint ourselves with the opinion about it. We should know whether it is in the best interests of the public or whether it would be possible to enforce it, in its present form and whether any changes should be brought about to make it more acceptable to the public. We should not be over enthusiastic about passing a large number of measures in a short time. The criterion of enacting a measure should be whether it is going to prove an effective measure or not. In the latter case it is no use bringing it on the Statute Book. That is why I have moved an amendment, namely that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon till 1-9-1950.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a simple matter. It is obvious that the object of referring this Bill to a select committee is that the Bill should be amended or scrutinised in such a manner that it is acceptable to the public and there is nothing in it which may not find favour with the people for whose benefit it is intended to be enacted. But I am going to refer to merely a procedural matter. If this Bill is now referred to a select committee, the latter will have to hold several meetings which means extra burden on the exchequer. If we have to find out the public opinion on it, then will it not be better to send it for circulation now and then refer the Bill to a select committee which should hold its deliberations during the session days. The Committee will have the advantage of going through the public opinions on it and also the Government will not be required to incur any additional expenditure on the traveling allowance of the Members, which in the present case they will have to bear. I feel that the select committee should hold its sittings during the session.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this is a very useful measure. Poor people are looking forward to the day when it becomes a law. It would solve the difficulties of the poor people to some extent in the matter of the marriages of their daughters. At present they are very unhappy because they are expected to give rich dowries like their affluent brethren. The refugees are particularly face to face with this difficulty. I am of the opinion that instead of referring this Bill to a select committee, this should have been taken into consideration at once. As you are aware Sir, I expressed my apprehensions in the party meeting that with the passing of this Bill an other serious problem may not arise. It is the problem of blackmarketing of the bridegrooms. (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : I have heard those arguments and he need not repeat them here.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Then, Sir, I feel that the Bill should have been passed as early as possible instead of [delaying] it by referring it to the select committee.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I may point out at the very out set that dowry problem in our country is a very vexatious problem. People are very sore about it and there is a strong sentiment in the people against it. My hon. Friend on my right has opposed it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No I have not opposed it. I have suggested that it should be sent for circulation to elicit public opinion on it.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Well, Sir, I was saying that there exists a strong feeling among the people against the dowry system. Sir, in Bengal many a families have been ruined on account of extravagant marriage ceremonies. A large number of unfortunate parents have not been able to get their daughters married on account of exorbitant demands put forward by the prospective husbands on them. The result of all this has been that most of the girls seeing their parents unable to marry them for want of suitable dowry have put an end to their miseries by committing suicide. Such of the parents who could hardly make their both ends meet have already disposed of their property simply for giving dowry to their daughters at the time of their marriage. The parents have already suffered untold miseries in this direction. This growing evil of spending huge amounts on the marriage of daughters already is vogue in Bengal has now spread to every nook and corner of our State. In spite of the fact that the numbers of the boys far exceeds the number of the girls in our State, exorbitant demands

[Shri Kedar Nath Saigal]

continue to be put forward by the prospective husbands on the parents of the girls. At present the position is that people in every nook and corner of the State are out to condemn this social evil as due to abnormal conditions at present prevailing in our State, it has become well nigh impossible for them to meet the heavy expenditure in connection with the marriage of their daughters. People are already sick of this dowry system as it has become almost impossible for them to give dowries when they are already hard hit due to abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities. However, I take this opportunity of congratulating the Government which otherwise is known for its delaying tactics for doing one good thing by bringing in the proposed legislative measure during its regime. At this stage I would also like to congratulate the hon. Chief Minister who has been my Friend and opponent too for taking such a good step. As a matter of fact we are too late in bringing in this Bill in this House. Such a step should have been taken immediately after the creation of this post-partitioned province and now the State of Punjab. If this was placed on the Statute Book about 2½ years ago and some hundreds of persons were imprisoned for violating its provisions, I am sure, people would have been relieved of all the worries and miseries. However it is not too late to take this step as it has been said :-

सुबह का भूला हुआ जो शाम को आजाए उस को भूला नहीं कहते

ਸੁਬਹ ਕਾ ਭੁਲਾ ਹੁਆ ਜੋ ਸ਼ਾਮ ਕੋ ਆ ਜਾਵੇ ਉਸੇ ਭੁਲਾ ਹੁਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਹਤੇ

Sir, I take this opportunity of congratulating you too as such a good step has been taken under your Speakership. In the end I would request my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh to support this good move on the part of the Government. I hope he will not hesitate to offer his wholehearted support to it.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal (South Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is a fact that I used to get enough opportunities to give expression to my views while sitting on the Opposition Benches in the United Punjab Assembly. The discussion in the Assembly then used to be very lively. After the attainment of independence I should have given vent to my feelings in this House where I find myself amongst my own comrades occupying Treasury Benches although they may hold the same views that I hold or their views may be divergent with the views held by me. People outside this House have for the last 2½ years been inquiring from me as to why I have been keeping mum and have never taken part in any discussion in the Assembly. The House is fully aware of the fact that I used to take active part in the discussions of the House

during the regime of late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, in the United Punjab Assembly and if I have chosen to be silent, it is not because of the fact that I am afraid that by criticizing the policy of the Government I would incur the displeasure of the Party-in-Power or that I may be expelled from the Congress Assembly Party for raising a dissentient voice but I often really fail to understand as to, how and to whom I should unburden my feelings. However I will be failing in my duty if I do not offer my congratulations to the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Members of this august House for bringing forward such a legislative measure before the House for the good of the State I really appreciate the fact that the Government have now realized to put an end to this demon of dowry for all time to come. It will not be out of place to mention here that the poor refugees are in a miserable plight and their woes know no end. They have already disposed of their ornaments that they had with them and now they have been reduced to such abject poverty and misery that they have begun to sell their clothes with a view to keeping their body and soul together. This is not all. They have taken recourse to all methods howsoever degraded and mean they might be, to satisfy their hunger. When they have lost all their belongings in the West Punjab and have no clothes even to wear, no home to live in, then, you may imagine, Sir, how they can afford to give dowry to their daughters. Our Government had indeed earned the gratitude of the millions of people by bringing forward such a reformatory measure in this House. As a matter of fact it was decided in the party meeting yesterday that the Bill now before the House, should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. But I am of the view that there is absolutely no necessity for circulating it for eliciting public opinion or to refer it to a select committee. I strongly feel that it should be passed here and now. In fact it is no use taking public opinion on such a good measure. I would request the House to pass this Bill into Law without any further delay. If this is done, I am sure public will heave a sigh of relief and they will be benefitted to a great extent and at the same time we will be able to implement the high ideals for which the Congress stands.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I thank the honourable Members for congratulating me for bringing forward such a Bill before the House. The hon. Members have pleaded for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. The Government will issue Press Communique at an early date. I would, therefore, request the hon. Member not to press his amendment and let the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: Will this Bill be referred to a select committee? I was under the impression that the Bill is going to be passed

Sardar Bachan Singh : I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is.

- (i) That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

1. Thakur Dalip Singh.
2. Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish.
3. Sardar Waryam Singh.
4. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.
5. Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.
6. Sardar Sajjan Singh.
7. Shri Bhagwan Dass.
8. Shrimati Sita Devi.
9. Chaudhri Samar Singh.
10. Prof. Sher Singh.
11. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal.

- (ii) That the quorum is the select committee shall be 5.

The motion was carried amidst cheers.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Minister For Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : I introduce the Punjab Public Health Bill.

Minister For Rehabilitation (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the Punjab Public Health Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31-7-50.

Sir, Public Health Administration in the Punjab is governed by several Acts and other model bye-laws framed by the Government. As a matter of fact such laws are not effective in their operation. Some attention is, however, paid in the municipal areas but inattention in the rural areas practically amounts to neglect. Under the existing law, Government have little powers to get public health measures executed in villages. There is no law which may effectively control the spread of infectious diseases in rural areas. Accordingly, this Public Health Bill is proposed to be enacted in order to improve the standard of general sanitation and to secure rapid and efficient control of diseases in municipal and rural areas. It is hoped that as soon as the provisions of this detailed Bill are brought in force, public health and municipal and village sanitation will be far improved. This Bill is being circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved——

That the Punjab Public Health Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31-7-50.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-member, west Punjab Assembly representing North-eastern Towns- General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the Punjab Public Health Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 30-9-50.

Sir, I would like this Bill to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon before the 30th September, 1950. I am sorry that there is very little time at my disposal which makes it impossible for me to enter into a detailed discussion. I would say that the Bill is of great importance in as much as it makes provision for improving and safeguarding the health of the public. There are certain clauses in the Bill which are essentially good for the improvement of general health of the public. It is an admitted fact that the municipal committees did not pay adequate attention to the public health needs of the community and all the measures were not adopted universally in all the local areas of the State. The Central Government recognised the need in this behalf and issued instructions to all State Governments to enact such a Bill. The Medical Council also advised likewise. But I oppose this Bill on the ground that it should have been drafted according to the needs of the State and it should be purged of all the defective clauses. Especially we will have to see what should be the functions and the personnel of the Health Board. I have to make many suggestions in connection with this Bill but I would not take much time of the House at this stage. I would, however, certainly inform rather warn my hon. Friends that vaccination and revaccination has been made compulsory in the Punjab Primary vaccination and Re-vaccination Bill. Even inoculation has also been made compulsory. We as legislators will be held responsible for all this. In any town or a village everybody will have to get his children vaccinated and re-vaccinated compulsorily. Similarly inoculation in case of Cholera, typhoid or dyptheria will also be made compulsory. Whereas all the Ministers of the Central Government and State Government are undergoing homoeopathic treatment for themselves and their families, I fail to understand why vaccination or inoculation should be made compulsory for others. I wonder why people should be deprived of the benefits of homoeopathic treatment when it is followed by Cabinet Ministers and other highly placed officers. The hon. Chief Minister Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava himself prefers this treatment of homoeopathy and avoid vaccination and inoculation.

Sir, my submission is that it is poisonous matter that is injected into human blood by inoculation. It does not provide protection to the

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt]

body but on the other hand has definitely injurious effect on some other functions of the body. Though in the case of vaccination, the conservative section of medical men concedes that it is efficacious and has the power to grant immunity, about the preventive quality of inoculation even the conservative allopathic medical men are very sceptical. The consensus of opinion of the allopaths is that inoculation does not grant immunity in cholera and typhoid fever. Anyway, there is considerable difference of opinion on this matter among the medical men. No doubt there are some doctors who commend the use of these medicines used in inoculations, but this is because they are in the employ of big firms of druggists and chemists like Parker Davis, which have vested interests and which do not hesitate to purchase certificates of medical men about the efficacy of the drugs they manufacture. The Ministers are generally laymen, so far as medical science is concerned.

Sardar Swaran Singh : But in this case, the Minister concerned is a medical man.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : But he has been out of touch, ever since he became a politician. I was saying, Sir, that the state of affairs is such that even the doctors belonging to the allopathic school hold divergent views about the efficacy of inoculations. Therefore, Sir, there is absolutely no justification for compelling the people to get themselves inoculated. This provision in the Bill cannot be justified on any ground, whatever. When the Public Health Bill reaches the stage where careful and earnest consideration on it will be possible, I hope the Government will agree to the omission of this clause, aiming at compulsory inoculation. With these words, I move that this Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon till 30th September, 1950, though I wish it could have been postponed for three or four years until better and abler persons have replaced the present occupants of the Treasury Benches..

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Punjab Public Health Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 30-9-50.

Minister for Rehabilitation : Sir, the date mentioned in the motion that has been moved by me is 31st July, 1950 and that suggested by my hon. Friend is 30th September, 1950. As a *via media*, I suggest that the date should be 31st August, 1950.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Public Health Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31st August, 1950.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) :
I introduce the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Development (*Punjabi*) : I move —

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, as my Friends and especially those hailing from Hoshiarpur and Ambala districts are well aware, 'Cho' and 'soil erosion' are the chief causes responsible for spoiling the land and making it barren and unfit for cultivation in our State. The havoc that has already been worked by them is well-known to all. It is with a view to protecting the land, that the Government has had to take so many precautionary measures. But at present we have no adequate provision in law to stop the activities of those who try to obstruct the implementation of these measures of land preservation. This Bill is designed to remove this short coming in the existing law on the subject

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development : I move —

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill be passed,

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB CONSERVATION OF MANURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) :

I introduce the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Development (*Punjabi*) : I move —

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment Bill) be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, as the hon. Members of this House are aware, the provisions of the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Act are being enforced in many parts of this State. It has come to the experience of the Government that under the Land Acquisition Act, it is not so easy to acquire land with a view to implementing the provision relating to compulsory conservation of manure. The procedure under that Act is not so quick and the consequent delay results in hampering the progress of 'Grow More Food Campaign'. It is with the object of overcoming this difficulty in the speedy acquisition of land, that this Bill has been brought before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1**SUB CLAUSES (2) and (3)**

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Subclauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES (2) to (5)

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1**SUB CLAUSE (1)**

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That subclause (1) of clause I stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

PUNJAB CONSERVATION OF MANURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(20) 37

Minister for Development : I move —

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill be passed:

The motion was carried.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PROVISION OF STALLS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Local Authorities (Provision of Stalls for Displaced Persons Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move —

That the Punjab Local Authorities (Provision of Stalls for Displaced Persons) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB CLAUSE (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That subclause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 to 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That subclause (1) of clause I stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move :—

That the Punjab Local Authorities (Provision of Stalls for Displaced Persons) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

—————

**EAST PUNJAB DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND RESETTLEMENT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL.**

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi) : I introduce the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Rehabilitation (*Hindustani*) : I move —

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, it was decided that a rent equal to four times the usual rent, should be charged from the temporary allottees for 'rabi' and that the permanent allottees should be able to have 'batai' from them. We were under the impression that we should be able to finish the work of rehabilitation soon but that has not been possible and it appears that it may be difficult to get 'batai' from the temporary allottees. It is now thought that no 'batai' should be charged from them and therefore this Bill has been placed before the House. As for the four times rent, an amendment will just now be brought to effect some reduction in it, and I hope it will find favour with the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Ajit Singh : (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I move —

That the following be substituted for the existing clause :—

2. In sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Act, 1949, for the words "liable to pay four times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai

**EAST PUNJAB DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND RESETTLEMENT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

(20) 39

at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession in Rabi, 1950 and after" the following words be substituted :—

liable to pay two and a half times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force at the time of entering into constructive possession in Rabi 1950 and after.

Sir, the displaced temporary allottees and the lessees feel that charging such exorbitant rent entails great hardship for them and it should therefore be reduced. Of course, the Government has already been kind to them by exempting them from 'batai' but I hope that it will go a step further and instead of charging four times it would charge only two and a half times of the usual rent.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved—

That the following be substituted for the existing clause :—

2. In sub-section (?) of Section 5 of the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resttlement) Act, 1949, for the words "liable to pay four times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession in Rabi, 1950, and after" the following words be substituted :—

Liable to pay two and a half times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force at the time of entering into constructive possession in Rabi, 1950 and after.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried,

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Rehabilitation : I move—

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) (Amendment) Bill as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

PREVENTION OF BLACK-MARKETING BILL.

Minister for Development : (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) I introduce the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketing Bill.

Minister for Development : I move—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketing Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Virendra : Sir I want to draw your attention to section 304 of the Constitution of India, clause (b) of this section lays down.

Notwithstanding anything in article 301 or article 303, the legislature of a State may by law impose such reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that state as may be required in the public interest.

Provided that no Bill or amendment for the purposes of clause (b) shall be introduced or moved in the Legislature of a State without the previous sanction of the President.

What I wish to say is this that it appears as if this Black Marketing Bill places some restrictions on trade. In case it be so, the Government should obtain the sanction of the President before introducing it in this House. This should not be taken to mean that I wish to obstruct the passage of this Bill. On the other hand I strongly support the principle underlying it. I wish that when it is passed into an Act it should not be declared *ultra vires* of this Legislature by the courts.

Minister for Development : Sir, I do not think we are placing any restrictions on any trade. We only wish to put a stop to black marketing.

Shri Virendra : Sir, I very well know that the intention of the Government is to stop black marketing. My desire is also the same and that is why I say that no loophole should be allowed to remain in the Bill which may be exploited by interested persons in the courts. Sub-clause 5 of clause 2 raises some fears in my mind. It reads as follows :

Blackmarketing means acquiring or disposing of, in the course of trade any essential article, in contravention of any law, rule, notification or order for the time being in force relating to the acquisition or disposal of such article or commodity.

To my mind the sanction of the President is necessary. However if the Government does not think so, it may carry on with the Bill.

Minister for Education : Sir, I draw your attention to the wording of Article 304 (a) of the Constitution. It reads :

(a) impose on goods imported from other States any tax to which similar goods manufactured or produced in that State are subject, so, however, as not to discriminate between goods so imported and goods so manufactured or produced.

The only intention of the section is that there should be no discrimination between the goods imported and produced.

Mr. Speaker : What about sub-clause (b) of the Article ?

Shri Virendra : Sir, I would draw your attention to the proviso to the Article. It lays down:—

Provided that no Bill or amendment for the purposes of clause (b) shall be introduced or moved in the Legislature of a State without the previous sanction of the President.

My contention is that the clauses of the Bill infringe the provisions of Article 304 and the Article should be read along with the proviso.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I do not find any weight in the objection raised by my hon. Friend, that a Bill which may at some stage be declared *ultra vires* cannot be introduced in the Legislature. A Bill which is on the agenda must be taken up and if somebody has doubts about its legality, he can go to a court of law and obtain its verdict. Dilatory tactics are being adopted by some persons who do not wish the Bill to be passed so that black-markets might go on for at least six months more. Taking the interests of the State in view, I shall request my hon. Friend Shri Virendra to give up his present attitude. The legality of every enactment can be challenged in a court of law and if any person has any doubts on that score, he can adopt that course. I submit that the House should proceed with the consideration of the Bill.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, so far as the anxiety of my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh for seeing that this Bill is passed at once is concerned, I am entirely one with him and I will be the foremost with him to see that this Bill is placed on the Statute Book. But, Sir, in view of the constitutional objection it would be futile to place the Bill on the Statute Book if its legality is going to be successfully challenged in courts of law. Because if we place on the Statute Book a law about which there is a legal objection or a lacuna, with regard to its jurisdiction and with regard to its validity and then leave it to courts to declare it *ultra vires*, it would result in placing each one of us including courts of law, the Government and the legislature also in an embarrassing position. Therefore, it is a matter for serious con-

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

sideration as to whether constitutionally this is possible or not. So far as restrictions on trade are concerned, almost every provision of this Bill contains such restrictions. The expression, "Restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that State", contained in sub-clause (b) of Article 304 of the Constitution is very wide.

Mr. Speaker : May I know if fixation of price also can mean interference with trade or not ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : I am not sure that fixation of price is interference with trade. It is possibly true that fixation of price is not interference with trade but there are other provisions in this Bill, for instance, sub-clause (iii) of clause 2, where refusal to sell a thing is made penal. Ordinarily it is the essential right of any trader to agree to sell or not to agree to sell or refuse to sell any commodity that he may possess.

Mr. Speaker : If fixation of price is not interference with trade, then the hon. Member should also see the definition of 'fair price'.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, I am definitely of the view, and I have applied my mind to it, that refusal to sell is an essential right of any trader. As we are restricting that right it comes within the mischief of clause (b) of Article 304 of the Constitution and as it is capable of wide interpretation, instead of leaving that lacuna the Government must obtain the sanction of the President for introducing this Bill. If this Bill is placed on the Statute Book in its present form and is later on declared *ultra vires* by any court of law then it will be very embarrassing for everybody concerned.

Secondly I want to point out that ours is not the only Legislature which is enacting such a Bill. I understand that already the Central Legislature has enacted a Bill with similar provisions and they are applicable not only to the centrally administered areas but to all States also.

Thirdly I have looked up the Articles of the Constitution and this matter is on the Concurrent List also. Therefore, when a matter is on the Concurrent List it is essential for the Government to consult the Government of India and I am not sure that it has done so. The State Legislature as such cannot have any excuse for enacting a Bill the provisions of which go against the provisions of the Constitution. The Government should consult the Central Government beforehand and make sure whether the Bill is *Ultra Vires* or *Intra Vires* of the State Legislature. My view after a careful consideration of the provisions of this new Bill, is that it comes within the mischief of sub-clause (b) of Section 304 of the Constitution of India and

that the sanction of the President for its introduction is necessary and without that sanction there is at least a reasonable fear of its being declared *ultra vires*, and we should not take that risk. We should not pass a Bill the provisions of which can be got over by the black-marketers, by finding out a lacuna, and such a Bill will not be in the interests of the administration. I would, therefore, strongly suggest that the sanction of the President which will be of a very formal character and which I am sure the President will not grudge, should be obtained. And also now that the Chief Minister has held out a promise for a special session of the Assembly for legislative purposes it will not make much difference if we do not pass this Bill to-day.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : You want that black-market should continue for another six months.

Sardar Swaran Singh : I know that Mr. Mehta has a temptation to go to the press with a banner line that he was in favour of passing the Bill immediately. I assure Mr. Mehta that I am more keen to see this Bill through but at the same time I do not want to place a law on the Statute Book which can be made ineffective by interested people later on. Such a law would not be in the interest of the Government and the administration, nor will it bring any credit to the Legislature. Therefore, it is in the interest of the State that a strong and effective measure should be passed which has no lacuna in it. I strongly suggest that the sanction of the President should be obtained before it is introduced.

Chief Minister (Hindustani) : Sir, reference has been made to Article 304 (b) of the Constitution which provides :

The legislature of a State may by law—

- (b) Impose such reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that State as may be required in the public interest.

According to the present Bill we are not imposing any new restrictions on any trade. Moreover I would like to invite your attention to Article 255 of the Constitution which lays down :—

No Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of a State specified in part A or part B of the first schedule, and no provision in any such Act, shall be invalid by reason only that some recommendation or previous sanction required, by this Constitution was not given, if assent to that Act was given—

- (a) where the recommendation required was that of the Governor, either by the Governor or by the President ;

[Chief Minister]

- (b) where the recommendation required was that of the Rajpramukh, either by the Rajpramukh or by the President;
- (c) where the recommendation or previous sanction required was that of the President, by the President.

Previous sanction is necessary only if we impose any new restrictions. But if we read the Bill, we would find that actually no new restrictions are being imposed. Clause 2 of this Bill lays down :

- (3) 'Essential articles or commodity' means any commodity defined as such in section 2 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1941 and includes any article or commodity which may be notified by the Government.
- (4) 'Fair price' means the maximum price for an essential article or commodity fixed by or computed in accordance with any law, rule, notification or order for the time being in force.'

The Punjab Government has thus fixed the prices under the authority vested in it by the Government of India. We are not fixing any new prices now. What we want is to restrict any person from selling any article or commodity at a price higher than the fair price. Fair prices have already been fixed under the Essential Commodities order of the Government of India which authorizes us to do so. Prices are not to be fixed under this Bill. So if we admit that Article 304 (b) is applicable to this Bill, I may point out that we are not imposing any new restrictions. Even if it is applicable, there is Article 304 (b) so I think the Bill is in order.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** After carefully considering the arguments and in view of Section 255 of the Constitution, I am of the opinion that the Bill can be introduced without the previous sanction of the President.

Minister for Development (The hon Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, everybody is tired of the curse of black market. This crime is committed against every member of our society. The criminal goes about undetected and continues unchecked, earning money in black market. He cannot be brought to book. The black marketer is in fact worse than the criminal who enters the house of a person during night time and gets money at the point of revolver. That criminal attacks only the person who is rich. But the black-marketer cheats each and everyone irrespective of the fact whether anybody is rich or poor. He cheats the man who has no house to live in and whose children are going about naked and hungry. Such a poor man does everything to feed and clothe his children and the unscrupulous black-marketer exploits his helplessness to the utmost. He is thus worse than an ordinary criminal.

Uptil now we had not even the definition of the word 'black market.' The result was that the police could not bring to book any such offenders. Even

if some black-marketers were fined, they earned again many times more in black market. In order to remove such shortcomings from the existing law, we have now defined the word 'black market' quite adequately.

Secondly, people should also know as to who is a black-marketer. Provision has, therefore, been made for this purpose in the Bill. The punishment now prescribed has also been made deterrent. It is, in short, to end the curse of black market in the State that this Bill has been brought before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketing Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Virendra (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division, Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I congratulate the Government on bringing this Bill before the House. Along with this, I have one complaint also. It is that the Bill does not seem adequate enough for the purpose of ending black market. If we want to end black market from our State, we will have to close all the doors through which this evil can find entrance into our society. As a matter of fact, I wanted the Bill to be so rigorous that nobody could have dared to indulge in black marketing. There are certain clauses of this Bill which are likely to increase black market instead of ending it. For instance, I would like to draw your attention to clause 2.

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Better leave that. I hope the hon. Member would not anticipate because we have got amendments to this clause. This point should be discussed at that time.

✓ **Shri Virendra :** Will you give me time then ?

✓ **Mr. Speaker :** Certainly.

Shri Virendra : So I give up this clause at present. The punishment prescribed in the Bill is not sufficient. If the Government really wants to end corruption, it should undertake such steps as have been undertaken by the Kashmir Government which has provided punishment of public flogging for the black-marketers. Unless we take such a step, it is not possible to end black-market. The people who are sought to be checked from black marketing, have so much money that they do not let the Government do anything against them. The hon. Members are aware of the fate of cases which are sent even to High Court. We have before us the example of iron and steel cases. I wish to submit that if the Government wants to put a stop to black market then it should try to remove the shortcomings that exist in this Bill.

[Shri Virendra]

These defects must be remedied. In the end I congratulate the Government for bringing in this legislative measure of immense importance.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to support what some of the hon. Members and Shri Vir ndra have stated. I heartily congratulate the Government in that it has tried to respond to public opinion by bringing in this legislative measure. A law is generally enacted in two ways. One of them is that a Government brings in a measure of its own accord and gets it passed, the second is that public opinion on a point becomes so strong that the Government has to recognize it and bring in a Bill which meets the needs of the situation and satisfies the public. This measure is a proof of the fact that the Government recognises the strong sentiments of the public on this matter which exists not only in the Punjab but throughout the length and breadth of the country. As a matter of fact the black marketers are the worst enemies of society. Independence which we have got is quite a new experiment. There is a general shortage of things in the country. Under these circumstances if obstacles are placed in the way of equitable distribution of things the loss to the society as a whole becomes immense. Ninety percent of the bad reputation that the Government has earned is due to the fact that the essential articles of daily use are not available to the public. This fact gives rise to black-marketing. The Bill which we have before us for consideration, aims at removing black marketing. If we look at its clauses carefully we will notice that various steps are intended to be taken with a view to check this evil. But my submission is that the mere passing of this Act will not mend matters of its own accord. If we are to reap full advantage out of it, I would advise that the most important method would be to create public opinion against black marketing in our own way. Wherever we are sitting and whatever we are doing the first duty of every citizen should be to create such public opinion. We should not tolerate any man who indulges in black market. I consider such an attitude of mind to be the first step in the direction of checking this evil. In this matter I wish to warn the Government and to tender an advice to it (and to all of my friends as well) that sometimes when we do certain things, may be in good faith, they indirectly tend to have an effect not against black-marketing but rather in its favour. Only the other day a question was asked in this House concerning a firm which was alleged to have indulged in some objectionable activities. The Member who put the question alleged that the Police resorted to victimization. The Government did not give a detailed reply. The Government appeared to be ignorant of the persons involved. It had no knowledge of the political party to which they might

have connections. The Government gave a brief reply without going into the details of the case. Under these circumstances the public might go away with the impression that perhaps it is not the policy of the Government to put a stop to black-marketing. More than the laws themselves the public is affected by the manner in which the Government deals with such matters, in its executive capacity. Shri Virendra has referred to the iron and steel cases. I don't wish to say anything about them at this stage because the matter is *sub judice*. But so far as the executive action of the Government is concerned, the public can have before it the policy of the Government. The iron and steel cases may be pursued or not, but the public cannot help feeling what the intention of the Government is with regard to them. It leaves an impression on the public mind that the Government is trying to prolong the cases unnecessarily and that it wants to wriggle out of them. My submission is that the executive action of a Government can make or mar the earnestness of any legislative measure, however nice it may be. The success of the purposes of any Act depends to a large extent upon the executive policy of a Government. In my opinion if any person is a black-marketer he should be sternly dealt with. Even if only a doubt exists against a person in the public mind, he should not be allowed to go about scot free. As a matter of fact such a person should not be allowed to have any place on the committees, conferences and boards that may be set up from time to time on public affairs. All persons who indulge in black marketing should be completely boycotted. It is common knowledge that if a person is intimate or thick with an officer, and people see that he enters the room of that officer without even sending a chit, then they carry away the impression that he weilds great influence in official circles.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Sardar Dalip Singh Kang, a member of the Panel of chairmen).

People begin to think that that gentleman is a sycophant and takes undue advantage of his intimacy with the Government officials. I am of the opinion that Government should discourage such practices. We should not forget that we are laying the foundations of our State afresh. We have to set up new traditions worthy of emulation by others. We have to act in such a manner as may enhance the confidence of the public in the Government. The people should feel that they have a Government where one can have fair field and no favour and under whose regime neither favouritism nor injustice is done to any body. They should have the feeling that their Government does not for a moment tolerate dishonesty, and if it raises its head in any form, it will be put down with a firm hand. I, therefore, submit that we should create such an atmosphere here that nobody could dare indulge in black-marketing. You will perhaps

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

remember, Sir, that in 1921, when the campaign for the popularization of khadi was at its height, everybody was clad in khaddar. Those who did not subscribe to the cult of wearing khaddar, did not dare come out of their houses in clothes made from foreign stuff. As a matter of fact such conditions were created by the public that nobody dare move out in a dress other than the khaddar clothes. So I would suggest to the Government that they should make such a provision in the Bill that it becomes impossible for the black-marketers to indulge in their nefarious activities. The Bill should be framed in such a manner that a person who has the reputation of being a blackmarketer, should become an object of ridicule by the public, who should proclaim him as the worst enemy of the society. If the society does not terrate him, he will come to his senses and refrain from indulging in black-marketing. I, therefore, submit that strong provisions should be made in the Bill to eliminate the evil of black-marketing from the State lock, stock and barrel.

✓ **Mr. Chairman :** As the sense of the House is that the Bill be passed today, I would request the hon. Members to cut short their speeches.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill now before the House. There can be no two opinions about the fact that blackmarketing is an evil which is eating into the vitals of the very life of the State of Punjab. I am sure Government must have felt the existence of this evil before and it has taken a wise step in putting forward this measure with a view to curbing it. I am of the opinion that if Government fails to achieve its object of putting down black-marketing in the province for want of adequate powers and come forward with an amending Bill next time demanding more powers for purposes of eradication of this evil, I would be the first person to lend my wholehearted support to the Government for this demand. I want the Government to eradicate this evil at any cost. In this connection I may point out that I had an opportunity of meeting some gentlemen who have come from China. I gathered from their talk that two factors were responsible for bringing about a revolution in that country. One was corruption of the officers and second was inflation on account of blackmarketing. Mr Speaker, the object of my relating this fact is that our Government should take a lesson from what has happened in China, and should take effective measures to extirpate this malady of blackmarketing from the Punjab.

Before I proceed further, I would like to make a few observations with regard to two matters which have been mentioned in this House. The first is that the penalty provided in the Bill is not adequate and secondly that public opinion against this evil should be created. So far as the first objection

is concerned, I do not agree with it. However, if the Government does not succeed in overcoming this evil of blackmarketing with the penal powers as are, at present, provided in the Bill, then as I have already stated I would be the forefront to arm the Government with additional powers. I shall not in hesitate to empower the Government to impose death sentence even, though I am of the opinion that no human being has a right to take another's life, to completely root out this evil. As regards public opinion, I think it is in general deadly against blackmarketing and is in favour of the Government's taking dire steps to eradicate this evil. There may be a few black sheep who wield power and want this evil to flourish in the State. They should be brought to book. Sir, I have given a very careful thought to the subject of blackmarketing. I may point out that I experienced its existence even during my jail days. Although generally it is said that blackmarketing started during the Second World War but it did exist in jails even before that conflict took place. The Jail officials barring a few honourable exceptions are very corrupt and they take advantage of the conditions prevailing in the prisons. They arranged to provide things to those prisoners at higher rates, who could afford to pay and could not go without them. It would be interesting to note that there used to be two types of prisoners in the jails. One class called "*sethclass*" comprised the sycophants who would flatter the jail officials unduly with a view to getting a few advantages. The other class called "*dhons class*" belonged to the threateners, who threatened the officials with disgraceful and abusive treatment, if certain concessions were not granted to them. Similarly there are two types of blackmarketers. One class belongs to the sycophants or flatters who try to get out some advantages from the Ministers including officials by humoring or bribing them up. The other class consists of those persons who are very influential and rich and yet threaten the officials and Ministers with dire consequences if their nefarious demands are not met by them. Government should take effective steps to bring people of both categories to book and inflict condign punishment on them so that they may not vitiate the atmosphere of the State by indulging in blackmarketing.

One thing more and I have finished. Sometime back when my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar was at the helm of affairs of the State, I wrote to him, on the basis of my experience, the reasons which lead to the spread of the evil of blackmarketing in the Punjab. I wrote that the officers were mainly responsible for the creation of black-marketing in the province. They restrict the supply of commodities, for instance steel and thus create scarcity with the results that blackmarketing flourished. I gave this fact in writing that I would be prepared to resign my seat in the Assembly if I failed to prove that the officers deliberately created conditions of scarcity in certain commo-

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

dities like steel. These officers were guilty of gross negligence and wilful neglect of duty.

Inspite of all this, I am really constrained to remark that the hon. Chief Minister did not realize his responsibilities and no action was taken in the matter. I would like to urge upon the Government to keep the good of the general public in view and thus take effective steps to eradicate corruption. The hon. Chief Minister should not hesitate to take action against any person whosoever he be if he is found guilty of corruption, gross inefficiency or wilful negligence. Under the circumstances I would request the Government in general and the hon. Chief Minister in particular to take severe action against the sycophants, flatterers and also those who resort to threats and indulge in black marketing.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Question may now be put, Sir,

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black-Marketing Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

NEW CLAUSE

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I beg leave to move the following new clause—

16. That the provisions of the Act shall not apply to the Registered Co-operative Societies,

Leave was refused.

CLAUSE I

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That sub clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : I move—

That in sub-clause (1) part (i), lines 1-2, the words "in the course of trade" be omitted.

Sir, the original clause about which I have moved the amendment reads as under :—

“Black-marketing means (i) selling in the course of trade or acquiring for the purpose of trade any essential article or commodity in excess of its fair price . . .”

If we study the statement of Objects and Reasons we will find:

“In spite of the vigilance of the Police and the official machinery, black-marketing has been rampant in the State due, in some measure, to lack of co-operation from the public”

It is crystal clear from this that if this clause is left unamended or in other words if my amendment is not accepted then the very object for which this Bill is intended to be placed on the Statute Book, will, I am sure, be in no case achieved. As a matter of fact it has been experienced that in any country where people resort to black-marketing, three agencies are involved in its process. In fact black-marketing cannot be possible without these three agencies namely, the dealers who sell the goods, the people who purchase them and the branch of administration which helps in making black-marketing possible.

It is abundantly clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that in the absence of any definition of black-marketing the provisions of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act 1946 could not be enforced strictly with a view to prosecuting black-marketers. Now by providing its definition it is the intention of the Government to take effective steps to root out this anti-social evil. It will be noticed that restrictions against black-marketing have been imposed only upon the persons selling in the course of trade or acquiring for the purpose of trade, any essential article or commodity in excess of its fair price. No such restrictions have been imposed on the customers. Thus according to the provisions of this Bill, any person other than a trader who sells any commodity in excess of its fair price cannot be prosecuted. I think my hon. friends will agree with me on the point that the enforcement of the proposed provisions of this Bill will therefore not be instrumental in eradicating black-marketing root and branch. If provisions were made for imposing strict restrictions on all the three agencies responsible for black-marketing as already referred to by me, I am sure, Government would have succeeded in wiping out corruption from the State. Instead of imposing restrictions on all the three agencies, Government has thought it fit to make provision for the imposition of such restrictions on one agency or class only. I cannot do without bringing this point home to the Government once again that if provision is made for imposing restric-

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

tions on all the three agencies responsible for black-marketing, it is sure to achieve the very object for which the proposed Bill is intended to be placed on the Statute Book. If equal restrictions are not imposed both on the trader and the consumer and suitable provisions to this effect are not made in the Bill as suggested in my above amendment, then I am afraid, we will not succeed in rooting out black-marketing. By imposing restrictions on one agency namely, the traders, only it will not be possible for the Government to take effective steps to eliminate black-marketing at present prevailing in every sphere of life in the State. It will not be out of place to mention here that this Bill does not make any such provision under which any person other than a trader can be prosecuted for purchasing an article on permit and selling the same at very high rates over and above the scheduled rates. For instance, if a person other than a trader succeeds in securing a permit for the export of four thousand maunds of gram from our State and then purchases this quantity and sells the same in any part of Kashmir State at a price six times more than the price prevalent here in this State there seems to be no provision in the Bill under which he can be prosecuted for resorting to black-marketing.

Sir, I would like to submit that the dealer in every trade considers that it is the duty of every tradesman to make the Bill with regard to prevention of black-marketing more effective. When a few persons indulge in black-marketing their act leaves a blot on the fair name of every dealer in that line. It is, therefore the duty of every trader to co-operate with the Government in order to root out this anti-social evil and thus to enhance the prestige of the Congress also. The Government should not pass this measure with the mere object of making political propaganda in its favour. I do not like to waste the time of the House by quoting details to show how the law that is going to be enacted in its present form will fail to put an effective stop to black-marketing. The Government should give categorical assurance that such a legislation is not being introduced with a view to making political capital out of it but to root out the evil of black-marketing from the State. The provisions of the Bill should be made effective in its application to all persons indulging in black-marketing irrespective of their social status. The steel scandal cases which were started by the Government on political considerations did not create the desired impression. The administrative machinery of the Government should have moved quickly with the disposal of such cases so that the decision of such cases might have proved as a deterrant check for others to indulge in black-marketing. It should also be the duty of the Government to instil a sense of confidence in the people's mind that the Government would always be guided by the principle of justice and equity in enforcing the provisions of the Bill. There

should be no discriminatory treatment in dealing with the cases of black-marketing and even-handed justice should be done to all. It would certainly be undesirable if some people are challaned and some are given a certificate. Such discriminatory treatment should in all circumstances be avoided. I would, therefore, request that the amendment, moved by me, may kindly be accepted by the House.

Mr. Chairman : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in Sub-clause (1) part (i), lines 1—2, the words "in course of trade" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Hindi) : I move—

That at the end of sub clause (3) the following be added :—

"In the Gazette for at least 21 days."

Sir, I wanted to say much on this amendment but at the same time I feel that it is the desire of the House that there should be no delay in the passing of this measure. So as a Congress man I must stand by the implementation of the principle enunciated in the Congress manifesto, as I regard all other considerations subordinate to it.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : God save the Congress from such people.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : I will, therefore, ever prefer to remain in the party discipline and to contribute to the progress of the work of the party. I know that it is the earnest desire of my hon. Friends that this measure should be passed before we all leave for our places. I, therefore, realize that there is little time at my disposal and I would do nothing which may cause delay in the passage of this Bill. If I were to enter into discussion on all the amendments that have been given notice of by me, it will take much time of the House and for which no time is being allowed to me. By another provision the Government may include whenever it likes any article or commodity other than the present essential articles or commodities contained in the list of essential articles which come under the definition of black-marketing. But before doing so the trader should be given reasonable opportunity to know that a new article or commodity is being included. There are two ways of doing so, one, is that it be passed in the Legislative Assembly and the other is that it should be published in the official Gazette and the Press. I think it is a reasonable demand. I, however again repeat that a sufficient notice should be given to the trader that such and such article or commodity has also been included in the essential articles or commodities. I think the House will have no objection in accepting the

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

relevant amendment moved by me. Sir, a pressure is being put on me that I should not press for my other amendments which I leave in deference to the wishes of my hon. Friends, though I think the Bill is being rushed through without consideration of my amendments, and will therefore fail to achieve the desired object. It will tend to increase corruption in the administration and will divert trade from the hands of honest and scrupulous dealers to those of un-scrupulous and bogus ones. The provision of a minimum sentence of 6 months even in a technical offence is never heard of and must be severely resented by the trade. Various other provisions of the Bill impose unreasonable restrictions on the trade and commerce of the State. With these remarks, I resume my seat to allow the House to pass the Bill within the few minutes left at its disposal.

Mr. Chairman : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of sub-clause (3), the following be added :—

"In the Gazette for at least 21 days."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Chairman : Question is :—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh, Rural) : I move—

That at the beginning of part (i) the word "rigorous" be added.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural), (*Hindi*) I move

That in line 2, for the words "six months" the words and figures "one year and a fine of Rs. 1,000/-" be substituted.

Sir, there are two and only two ills which are eating into the vitals of our society and body politic. They are corruption and black-market. We are not just now concerned with the former. About the way the latter is ruining our country and nation, there is no need for me to dilate. Very stern measures are necessary to eradicate this evil from our society. People have been advocating capital punishment for this heinous offence. But it is a pity that instead of realizing the need for deterrent punishments to root out this evil, our Government is in favour of soft measures and does not agree to make the term of imprisonment for this offence in the Bill at least one year instead of six months. I would also urge that in addition to imprisonment, there should be provision for a fine of rupees one thousand for an offence of

this nature, so that the general public may feel assured that the Government is really serious about the extirpation of this evil. With these words, I commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Chairman : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in line 2, for the words "six months" the words and figures "one year and a fine of Rs. 1,000/-" be substituted

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh. I have no mind to take much time of the House and I would try to finish what I have to say in a few minutes. Sir, the chief reason why we were so anxious to oust the previous Ministry of Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava was our earnest desire to rid this State of the evil of black-marketing. Accordingly while electing Shri Bhim Sen Sachar as leader of the party, we had got a solemn promise from him that he would do his best to root out this evil, and we had in return promised to co-operate with him to the fullest extent. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar set about this task but with a lenient attitude in the beginning. The result was that such an atmosphere was created.....

✓ **Mr. Chairman :** Please be relevant.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : All right, Sir, I leave it. If we really want to eradicate this evil, we shall have to give our assent to the use of very stern measures. The example of China and Russia should be followed by us with profit. It is a lesson which we cannot ignore. The proposal made by Sardar Bachan Singh with regard to the penalties for this anti-social offence is of a very modest and lenient nature. I think our Government should have no objection to its acceptance. For our part, we are not in favour of punishment of imprisonment for such offences. In my opinion, punishment by caning or whipping publicly the offenders guilty of black-marketing would prove more deterrent than the punishment of the former kind. But it appears that those who are sponsoring and supporting this Bill prefer imprisonment to any other kind of punishment lest their friends should still not be able to shake off their old habits and get convicted for offences under the proposed Black-Marketing Act. Keeping this in view, imprisonment would surely be preferable to them to the punishment of caning in a public place. The punishment proposed in the amendment of Sardar Bachan Singh is nothing as compared to the punishments awarded for such offences in other countries like Russia, where a person was sometime back sentenced to death for committing an offence under the rationing rules. All

[Shri Kedar Nath Saigal]

that he had done was to get a bogus ration card issued for a friend of his. So far as the punishment of fine is concerned, I think no black-marketer would feel very much affected by it. With these words, I support the amendment.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we are not unmindful of the fact that the hon. Members of this House are anxious to provide for maximum punishment for offences of black-marketing. But I may point out that under the clause relating to penalties, imprisonment for a term of six months is the minimum punishment and the maximum can extend to six years imprisonment. Even after this measure comes into force, if it is found that black-marketing has not been prevented and sterner measures are needed, we shall bring in an amending Bill. For the present, I request that this Bill may be passed as it is.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That in line 2, for the words "six months" the words and figures "one year and a fine of Rs. 1000/-" be substituted.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Chairman said 'I think the Noes have it.' This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Chairman after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged his decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Chairman : Question is :

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 4 to 7.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That clauses 4 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushlsh (Ambala Division, Land holders) : Sir
I move—

That in lines 4-5, for the words "after giving reasonable notice" the words "after showing proper authority" be substituted.

In my view in this clause lies the essence of the Bill and if a black-marketer is given a reasonable notice before a search is carried out of his premises, he will get a chance to do away with the evidence and I am sure nothing incriminating will be recovered from the premises. It is essential that the culprit should not be given any chance and the officer who is to carry out the search should be able to do so just by showing him the authority.

Mr. Chairman : Clause Under consideration, amendment moved—

That in lines 4-5, for the words "after giving reasonable notice" the words "after showing proper authority" be substituted.

Minister for Development : Professor Sher Singh is moving an amendment to this clause and I think it would be better if the hon. Member withdraws his amendment. The new amendment will, I hope, satisfy him.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : In deference to the wishes of the hon. Minister I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Chaudhri Sher Singh (Jhajjar, General, Rural) (Hindi) : I move—

That in line 5, between the words "notice" and "enter" the words "to the female inmates to withdraw" be inserted.

Sir, where it was necessary that only reasonable time be given to the culprits lest they should be able to conceal articles, it was also essential that due respect should be shown to the female sex. I have tabled this amendment to assure the latter object.

Mr. Chairman : Clause under consideration, amendment moved —

That in line 5, between the words "notice" and "enter" the words "to the female inmates to withdraw" be inserted.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : I think, Sir, that this amendment is rather defective. Because it gives another loop-hole that if a female is present on the premises a notice is to be given to her to withdraw before a search could be carried out. The letter of the law has to be satisfied before an officer can enter and start a search. This will give a chance to the person concerned to do away with the evidence against him and the object of the Bill will be defeated.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That in line 5, between the words "notice" and "enter" the words "to the female inmates to withdraw" be inserted.

[Mr. Chairman]

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Chairman said, "I think the Ayes have it." This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Chairman after calling upon those Members who supported the claim for Division and those who challenged this decision to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

CLAUSES 9 to 15.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 9 to 15 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, as amended, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black Marketing Bill, as amended, be passed.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, people will laugh at the irresponsible way in which this Bill is being passed by this House. I had so many things to say in this regard but for want of time I shall confine myself to one or two points only. So far as the views of my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar are concerned, I am at one with him. But the pity is that whenever black marketing is discussed anywhere in the State or in the country, people become sentimental and begin to indulge in loose talk and overlook the facts which bring it into being. I may here warn the House that passing of this Bill is not likely to achieve the desired results.

The main reason is that unless and until we have an efficient and honest

administration, black marketing must find root in the country in the present time. This is reason number one. The reason number two is that so long as the State or for that matter the country suffers from shortage of goods, it is not possible to put a stop to black-marketing. To my mind we should do whatever we can to remove shortage of goods and that can be done if we produce more. At present I find that right type of controlled and rationed commodities cannot be supplied to the people. Let me here take the example of iron and steel. The required quality as also the quantity of iron is not available in the State. People are given a quality of iron which does not serve their purpose and this fact is known to the Government. They sell their quotas and buy the right quality of iron in the black market. The Government permits them to do so. I say, is not this black-marketing which is being carried on with the permission of the Government? When this is the state of affairs, who will believe that effective steps would be taken to eradicate black-marketing from the State? The third thing which I wish to point out is that the provisions of this Bill are such that even some innocent persons who have some enmity with the police or some other officers, might be made to suffer on the basis of false reports. Such possibility should have been avoided. I am sorry that my hon Friend Sa dar Swaran Singh, who had given notice of an amendment which was based on principles of jurisprudence, did not choose to move it. It is not proper to curtail the powers of trying Magistrates in the matter of granting bail. If an accused could produce some suitable person to stand surety for him, the Magistrate should have been given the discretion of accepting his bail application, if he thought it fit to do so. The mere fact that the police is against a certain person would land him in difficulty. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a great deal of party politics in this State. If prosecution is lodged against a certain person; he should be afforded full opportunity of proving his innocence. If he can prove that there is no prima facie case against him, there should be no objection to his being enlarged on bail. I wish that ordinary principles of jurisprudence should not have been ignored. Nobody can have the least sympathy with a person who indulges in black marketing but in no case should an accused be denied of the ordinary facilities of defending himself. I am sure that after sometime the Government will realize that the provisions of the Bill with regard to bail are unjust and these will have to be modified.

An hon. Member : Sir, the question may now be put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : I am thankful to the hon. Members who helped in passing this Bill. Undoubtedly this Bill had to be passed hurriedly but I feel that even the time which has been spent in passing it, was more than necessary. In fact, this Bill should have been passed much earlier. One of my hon. Friends who made certain suggestions also raised a few objections. Without desiring to join issue with him, I beg to submit that some evils are sure to persist so long as there is shortage of essential goods. This Bill is intended to decrease those evils, as long as the present situation lasts. It is essential to have this measure on the Statute Book till proper distribution of goods can be made.

As regards distribution of steel, I beg to submit that permits were issued to too large a number of persons. In my opinion these should have been issued to only those who were engaged in this trade prior to partition. If that had been done, there would have been no difficulty in this matter. The number of permits issued was so large that the demand for steel could not be met. As a member of the Government, I do not blame any particular person for doing so, but it led to such a state of affairs that we have to make great effort to set the matter right. In the face of short supply of steel, we are trying to meet the demands of those who are in need of it. Formerly, anybody who applied for grant of permit and exerted a little, got it. Steps have now been taken to set the matter right. It has also been laid down that steel should be purchased at the proper price only.

Then, Sir, it was said that the measure was very severe and even the principles of jurisprudence had not been followed. In this connection, I beg to submit that the suggestions made by some of my hon. Friends were severer still. Some of them suggested that those who indulged in black-marketing should be moved about on donkey-back with blackened faces while others recommended their being flogged or even shot dead. The punishment proposed in the Bill is much milder than these suggestions. If in the pursuit of eradication of the evil of black-marketing even, some innocent persons have to suffer, it should not be regarded very unfair. Such persons should be regarded as martyrs in the cause of that effort. For these reasons I submit that this Bill should be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Prevention of Black-marketing Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB DISTURBED AREAS BILL.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) Sir, I move —

That the East Punjab Disturbed Areas Bill be withdrawn.

Sir, in this connection I have to remind the House that the Bill was passed by the Assembly on the 26th of March, 1949. His Excellency the Governor General has returned this Bill for reconsideration by the House. At this stage I want to withdraw it so that we may consider the directive of his Excellency.

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB SPECIAL TRIBUNALS BILL.

Chief Minister : Sir I move—

That the East Punjab Special Tribunals Bill be withdrawn.

This Bill was also passed by the House on 26th March, 1949, and has been returned by His Excellency the Governor General for re-consideration by the House. At this stage I want to withdraw the Bill.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.

Chief Reporter
Punjab Vidhan Sabha
Chandigarh

B-151841

